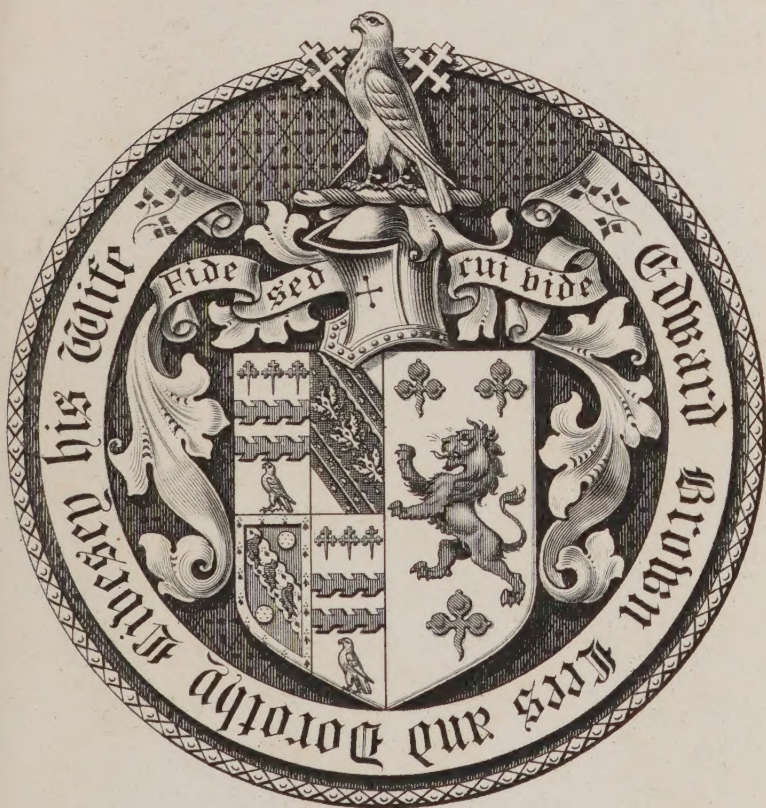






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TRAVELS
IN
UPPER AND LOWER EGYPT,
BY
M. SONNINI,

PERFORMED IN THE YEARS 1777 AND 1778.

WHILE contemplating the writings of numerous travellers, who at various times, and in different parts of the globe, have devoted the best of their abilities to the general instruction of mankind, and the more immediate satisfaction of their countrymen, we feel a peculiar pleasure in presenting to our readers those of Sonnini, which, for their undoubted veracity, interesting remarks, and artless yet elegant descriptions, have been justly appreciated by the sons of France, and cordially welcomed to the British shore by a generous race of men, who are ever ready to reward the exertions of merit with immortal applause.

The French government having appointed M. Tott inspector of the ports of the Levant and Barbary, and commanded a vessel to be fitted out for his passage thither from Toulon, our author received orders to embark on board that ship, and to follow its destination. He accordingly quitted his friends at Montford, and took post-horses to Marseilles, where he continued but a few hours.

On his arrival at La Ciotat, (which he visited in consequence of some memorials addressed to Versailles by an individual who had started the idea of cutting through a hill in the vicinage, as far as the

sea, under pretence of extracting a large quantity of coral,) he received the following particulars of a curious ceremony which annually takes place at the latter end of December. A considerable number of men, armed with swords and pistols, set out in quest of a little bird called troglodytes by the ancients, and still retaining that name in the natural history of birds, written by Guenau de Montbeillard. When they have found it, which requires no great time, as they take care to have one ready for the occasion, it is solemnly suspended from the middle of a pole, and carried round the town by two men, who bear it on their shoulders as if it were a great burden. The bird is then weighed in a large pair of scales, and the remainder of the day is devoted to festivity and merriment. The appellation bestowed by the inhabitants on the troglodytes is equally singular with the above ceremony: it is called at La Ciotat "the polecat, or father of the woodcock," merely because its plumage is similar to that of the woodcock, which they erroneously suppose to be engendered by the polecat. With respect to the projected excavation, the works that had begun were all abandoned, and the enterprise itself entirely relinquished.

Stopping at Cassis, on his return to Marseilles, our traveller observed two manufactories for the working and polishing of coral, which is usually carried to the African coast, there to be given in exchange for slaves. The vineyards in the neighbourhood of Cassis produce a white wine of an excellent quality.

As M. Sonnini understood at Marseilles that the frigate, then equipping at Toulon, would not be completely ready for some time, he undertook an excursion into Languedoc with the secretary of M. Tott. In the environs of Cette, and along the coast, he collected a variety of volcanic matter and marine productions; at Balaruc they visited the baths; at Frontignan they amused themselves with a view of the famous vineyards, and from thence proceeded,



Curious Ceremony at La Violat!

along the finest road in France, to Montpellier. This pleasant ramble, however, had taken up so much time, that it was requisite to revisit the coast of Provence, whither they resolved to return by sea: they accordingly agreed for their passage with the master of a tartan, then in the port of Cete, and were waiting at the inn for the hour of departure, when they were abruptly told that the commandant of the town was highly offended at their conduct, in presuming to leave the port without his consent; that he was particularly incensed against Sonnini, from whom, as an officer, he expected the ceremony of a visit; and that he now requested them to repair to his house, where several other persons who designed to take their passage in the same tartan were already assembled. In consequence of this curious message, our author and his companion waited upon M. Quérulle, officer of invalids and commandant of Cete, who, on their arrival, informed our traveller that he was much surprised at his neglect, and observed that he should certainly have invited him to partake of his soup, had he thought proper to pay him a visit. Sonnini briefly answered, that, as a stranger, a traveller, and officer, who did not belong to the army, he must implore forgiveness for his ignorance of the commandant's existence, whose *soup* was by no means the object of his researches.

Evidently disconcerted at the conclusion of this pointed answer, M. Quérulle told him, he was at liberty to depart whenever he thought proper; and then turning, with an air of affected dignity, towards the other travellers, he commanded them to go about their business, as he had no concern with them. Our author and his companions accordingly proceeded towards their little vessel, greatly amused with this ludicrous adventure, which appeared so analogous to the name of the commandant.

On the 26th of April 1777 our author sailed from the road of Toulon in the *Atalante* frigate; but, the

wind proving unfavourable, the mariners were obliged to cast anchor, the following afternoon, in the road Des Vignettes, in the bay of Toulon, where the elevated coast, finely clothed with the productions of Ceres and agreeably spotted with a variety of rural edifices, forms a charming contrast to the naked sides of the mountains, which compose the back ground of the interesting scene, and which, notwithstanding their steril appearance, afford, in some parts, a substantial and odoriferous food to the justly celebrated flocks in the vicinage of Toulon.

On the 2d of May a breeze from the north-west enabled the seamen to resume their voyage till the morning of the 4th, when they were again baffled by adverse winds, and necessitated to put into Genoa.

As the city of Genoa has been ably and frequently described in the writings of other authors, Sonnini is silent upon the subject, and in place thereof presents his readers with the recital of a little occurrence, that furnishes a trait of national character, and is therefore deemed worthy the attention of the public. Visiting the opera at Genoa, our traveller remarked two female dancers, who sustained the principal part in the ballet, and who were both young and extremely beautiful. Their performance, however, was essentially different, as the movements and attitudes of the one might be justly said to be directed by the graces, while the steps and springs of the other, though apparently superior in point of exertion, were in reality no more than feats of activity: yet such was the corrupted taste of the Genoese, that the former was regarded with universal coldness, while the latter was received with a thunder of applause. Anxious to correct the error of the audience, and to transfer the smiles of approbation to the side of merit, Sonnini, with several of his countrymen and fellow passengers, took different posts in the theatre, and applauded their favourite actress so warmly, that a few of the Genoese began to join them; but the triumph was

ensured, in spite of all their endeavours, to the other dancer. Next day they went in greater numbers, and espoused the cause of the neglected graces with still greater zeal, till the struggle became sufficiently violent to excite the solicitude of the senate, who accordingly passed a decree, for the prohibition of any future disturbance, and ordered sentries to be stationed in various parts of the house. The Frenchmen, however, still remained resolute in their purpose till the resistance gradually subsided, and after a few more representations they had the satisfaction of seeing their design completely accomplished, as the actress who had so recently triumphed over her superior was now seen with indifference, and the public admiration was entirely transferred to her of whom Sonnini had avowed himself the champion. Satisfied with his success in a point so important, our author gave an entertainment on board the *Atalante* to the two dancers, and endeavoured to make some amends, by his urbanity, for that derangement of success which his exertions had caused to the former protégée of the Genoese audience.

After a delay of ten days, our traveller and his companions sailed from the harbour of Genoa on the 13th of May, with a fresh gale from the north-east, that bore them rapidly along from the lofty and fertile coast of that beautiful part of Italy; while the maritime alps, which resembled an immense amphitheatre, incrustated with perpetual snow, gradually receded from the sight, and the high mountains that skirt the gulf of Spezzia presented themselves to view. Their summits were also capped with snow, and they were destitute of vegetation, but productive of the finest marbles that are exported from Italy. On the left the mariners passed the small circular island of Gorgona, subject to the grand duke of Tuscany, and afterwards passed between Cape Corso and Capraria, a small island appertaining to the republic of Genoa. It is scarcely worthy a better appellation

than a barren rock ; but it contains, notwithstanding, a few houses that are inhabited by excellent sailors.

On the following day they plied to windward between Cape Corso and the island of Elba, a possession of the king of Naples. It has two excellent harbours, and affords some good marble ; but is more particularly famed for its mines of iron and magnets, which render its approach perceptible to navigators, from the great variations to which the compass is there subject. The method of working iron in this isle is more æconomical, more expeditious, and more advantageous, than that of the common forges in other parts of Europe : the metal which is produced is equal to the best Swedish in toughness and malleability.

The coast between Cape Corso and Bastia is composed of steep mountains, many of them covered with snow. The city of Bastia is pleasantly situated upon the declivity of a hill, and its harbour affords secure anchorage for small vessels, though it is unfit for the reception of ships of war.

Towards noon the *Atalante* passed near a bare and desert rock, called Monte Christo, situated at a small distance to the southward of Elba, from which it seems to have been detached by one of those convulsions of nature which frequently happen in these seas. The line of land that originally united the two islands may still be traced by an intervening rock, called the *Plancoa*, that is almost even with the water's edge.

At the commencement of the afternoon the weather was fine, and there was a light air from the south-east ; but towards evening the wind changed, and blew strong from the south-west. The sky was then overcast ; the advancing night was extremely dark, and derived additional horror from the frequent flashes of lightning that gilded the frowning clouds with a transitory blaze, and illumined the agitated waves of the ocean. This gale of wind continued

till the 15th, when the vessel was abreast of *Le Bocche di Bonifacio**, and about ten leagues distant from the land. The sea is here repulsed by numberless shoals and a great extent of coast, and the winds are frequently changed by a variety of straits, so that few ships navigate in these latitudes without meeting with bad weather. During the tempest in the morning, several quails and turtle-doves endeavoured to shield themselves from the fury of the contending elements by settling upon the ship: they were all so extremely fatigued or terrified, that they suffered themselves to be taken by the hand. At some distance from the frigate, the billows were ploughed by a numerous shoal of porpoises, while on the other side a turtle lay sluggishly upon the surface.

After encountering another gale from the west south-west, the seamen discovered, on the 17th, the island of *Ustica*, a dependency of Sicily. It is well cultivated, though only about twelve miles in circumference; it is well known as a retreat to the pirates who infest these seas, though it is only four years since the Neapolitan monarch resolved to erect a fort upon it in order to keep them away. They had also ahead of them the Sicilian promontory called *Cape San Vitto*, and about twelve o'clock they cast anchor at the mouth of the harbour at *Palermo*, and dispatched an officer to compliment the viceroy of Sicily, and to negotiate with him the point of salutes. It was accordingly agreed that the *Atalante* should fire fifteen guns, and that a similar number should be returned by the citadel; but such was the state of the Sicilian artillery, that two full hours elapsed, while the gunners were busily employed in raising some half-buried pieces of cannon, placing them upon blocks of wood instead of carriages, and putting them in a condition to fulfil the viceroy's engage-

* The straits which separate the island of Corsica from that of Sardinia.

ment. The Barbary corsairs were well acquainted with this shameful neglect, and frequently availed themselves of it by cutting vessels out of the very harbour.

As only three days were spent at Palermo, our author employed them to the best advantage, by visiting rapidly every thing of note in the city and its environs, which are already well known by the narrations of various travellers and the beautiful delineations of different artists.

The harbour is one of the securest in these seas, and is defended by a fortress: its form is circular, but its artillery, as already described, is actually contemptible. The city, with the suburbs and circumjacent walks, presents to the spectator an agreeable and richly diversified amphitheatre, while the back scenery is rendered highly picturesque by a chain of lofty mountains, whose naked and uncultivated summits aspire to the clouds, immediately behind the city. The streets are well built, wide, straight, and paved with large stones; the largest of them may be said to resemble that of St. Honoré, at Paris, by the splendid illumination of the shops and coffee-houses; by the number of equipages, with flambeaus behind them; and by the crowds of people that pass and repass continually. At the extremities of the city are four handsome gates, with two streets leading to them, which cross each other near their centre, and form a small square called the Ottangolo.

Such of the Sicilians as are not actual labourers, are so constantly used to go out in a coach, that they would deem it highly indecent to make use of their legs; hence the number of carriages is very great, and a foreigner may procure one, of respectable appearance, at the rate of seven or eight livres per day. Swords are universally worn at Palermo by persons of every description. The hair-dresser, with his powder-bag; the cobbler, with his leathern apron; and, in short, every artisan in the dress of his respective

profession, may be there seen, with a long Toledo by his side, an old full-bottomed wig upon his head, and most commonly with a pair of spectacles hanging upon his nose. The churches are magnificently decorated, and frequently overloaded with ornaments, in such a manner as to give offence to good taste. The principal objects of admiration, which embellish the interior of these edifices, are some excellent paintings; the superb altar of St. Catherine's, constructed of the finest marble, which, by a singular chance, forms a broad festoon border round it; the twenty-four columns of oriental granite, that support the cathedral; several tombs of porphyry; and an immense tabernacle of lapis lazuli.

The temple which has been erected to Nature and the Sciences is much dilapidated, and the museum is a confused assemblage of uninteresting objects: the collection of animals is most wretched, merely consisting of a few monsters preserved in spirits of wine, and of worm-eaten skins that are literally dropping to pieces: there are, however, some valuable antiques and some curious petrifications.

The adjacent country is extremely pleasant. La Bagaria, a canton at nine miles distance from the city, is justly celebrated for the beauty of its plains, the richness of its soil, the variety of its culture, and the numerous villas with which it is embellished. The road that leads to it is entirely lined with aloes and Indian figs. In this part our author saw the palace of prince Palagoni, which is really so shocking a monument of bad taste, that it does not even merit the appellation of folly. The exterior and avenues are crowded with a prodigious number of clumsy statues, thrown promiscuously together, and representing monsters so disgusting that they cease to be ridiculous. The style of the interior is perfectly analogous. The walls of the apartments are plated with coloured glass, in imitation of marble, and the ceiling is composed of numerous fragments of looking-

glasses which reflect objects in a thousand different ways. Here also the spectator is shown large crucifixes and pyramids, constructed of cups, saucers, coffee-pots, and other articles of earthen ware, arranged in such a manner as to form the most inconsistent assemblage. In the chapel there is a group of angels, entirely naked, of the most beautiful forms and brilliant colouring, with a horrible wooden figure in the midst of them, representing a dead man partly devoured by worms. As this piece of disgusting absurdity is unluckily executed in such a manner as to appear natural at the first glance, many ladies who have visited this grotesque edifice have fainted at the unexpected sight, and sometimes experienced the most disastrous consequences from their ill-timed curiosity. The fortune of the proprietor, it seems, is now vested in the hands of trustees, as his friends have found that he was ruining himself by the execution of his favourite, but preposterous, absurdities.

Adjoining the edifice of Palagoni stands the palace of prince Valguarnera, which forms a charming contrast to the former, as considerable taste is displayed both in its construction and furniture. Its situation and prospect are exquisitely pleasant: it is embellished with a noble garden, a fine piece of water, and an elegant theatre for private representations, while to these advantages is joined the urbanity of its proprietor, which renders it indeed a most delightful abode.

From hence our traveller made an excursion to a small town denominated Montreale. It is built on the summit of a steep mountain, at the termination of a new and excellent road, guarded on each side by a wall breast high, sprinkled with crystal streamlets that lave the gentle declivity, and perfumed by aromatic odours, which rise from an adjacent forest of orange and lemon trees. The most remarkable object in Montreale is a large church erected by William the Good. It is completely incrustated with

mosaic, and the principal altar is of massy silver admirably executed.

Among other remarkable things in the environs of Palermo, a convent of Capuchin friars is pointed out to the curiosity of strangers: it is situated at a small distance from the town, and its gardens serve for a public promenade. Beneath the monastery is a large cave divided into four great galleries, and lighted by means of apertures at each extremity. Here are preserved all the friars who have died since the foundation of the convent, as well as the bodies of several individuals of the town, who were apparently fearful to be confounded with the rest of mankind even after their decease*.

But hastening to quit this dreary abode, our author gives the following animated picture of Sicily's privileged soil, and its exuberant productions:—"Warm-ed," says he, "by the genial heat of the solar rays and by subterraneous fire, the earth rejects scarcely any kind of culture; whether bedecked with a carpet of beautiful green; enriched with the golden harvests, whose abundance formerly procured this island the name of the granary of Rome; or covered with trees of every kind bearing odoriferous fruits and flowers, she always presents herself in the rich dress of fertility."

The women seen by our author, in that part of Sicily which he visited, were in general handsome, and reputed very susceptible of the tender passions; a happy disposition, which they indisputably derive from the genial influence of their atmosphere.

* The preservation of these bodies is ensured by drying them before a slow fire, in such a manner as to consume the flesh without injuring the skin: when they are thoroughly dried, they are clad in the monastic habit, and set upright upon shelves in the cave; but as the skin by this process is discoloured, and frequently torn, it is easy to conceive that this singular collection must present a very hideous spectacle to a stranger.

The pastures are covered with numerous herds of fine oxen, similar to those of France except in the shape of their horns, which are equally remarkable for their length and regularity. Game of every kind is extremely plentiful, and fish is also caught in great abundance. The adjacent shoals are likewise red-dened with coral, and a great number of boats are employed in the fishery of that valuable production; and that nothing may seem destitute of life and motion, gulls frequently cut the air in their rapid flight over the ships at anchor, and oppose the brilliant white of their plumage to the beautiful azure of an atmosphere that is but rarely sullied with a cloud.

Quitting the harbour of Palermo, a little after midnight, on the 22d of May, the *Atalante* proceeded towards a lofty and perpendicular promontory called San Vitto. Between this cape and Palermo the coast is steep, and intersected by fine cultivated valleys, which form a charming contrast to the sterility of the neighbouring rocks. There is deep water along the coast, and vessels may approach very near to it without any danger. The seamen then passed between Maretimo and Favoyanna, two small islands, whither the king of Naples banishes his state prisoners. While standing towards Malta, they perceived a long extent of the low Sicilian coast, between Cape Marsella and Cape Passaro; and, in the distance, discovered a chain of lofty mountains parallel to the coast. The weather was now remarkably fine; the heavens perfectly serene; the vessel glided slowly over the smooth surface of the waters, that was scarcely dimpled by the gentle breeze; while the passengers gazed, enraptured, on the surrounding plains, richly embellished by the spontaneous productions of nature, and charmingly diversified by the labours of the husbandman.

On the morning of the 25th they approached the island of Panteleria, which is tolerably fertile, and contains some inhabitants. It has, however, but one

spring of water, and is generally dreaded by mariners, who know, by experience, that ships seldom pass it without encountering an obstinate gale of wind.

Next day they entered the harbour of Malta, which, our author affirms, is one of the finest and most capacious in the universe. The entrance is narrow, and guarded on each side by a strong castle. The fortifications which defend the port and the city are truly excellent, and kept in thorough repair. The city of Valette, or the new city, is well built; the roofs of the houses, like those of the oriental nations, are terraced, and the streets are paved with a sort of stone, that is so extremely white as to dazzle the eyes when reflecting the rays of the sun. The palace of the grand master is a spacious building, equally remarkable for its exterior and interior graceful simplicity.

The order of Malta are possessed of a public library, that is apparently increasing with great rapidity. This library contains several specimens of natural history, among which is a petrified bone of considerable size. At Malta it was supposed to be a piece of petrified wood; but our author convinced several persons of their mistake, and clearly demonstrated that it was a fragment of the femur of some large quadruped.

A still richer cabinet of curiosities was discovered by Sonnini, in the possession of M. Barbaroux, which contained some choice curious petrifications; valuable medals; a large figured pearl; a beautiful enamelled head in chiaroscuro; and a large crystal medallion engraved by Michael Angelo.

Walking is not here a degradation, as in the noisy city of Palermo. The grand master alone possesses a coach and six horses; and even this is seldom used for any other purpose than to carry him to his country house. Officers of the order, and other inhabitants, keep chaises for the same purpose, drawn by a single mule, and led along by a man, in order to prevent any accident to the humble, but careful, citizen who is necessitated to traverse the streets on foot. Of

the knights of Malta, Sonnini observes, that all the members of the order, with whom he had any connection, were only remarkable for the great amenity of their manners and the abundance of their civilities.

At the distance of three miles from the new city is the old one, called Citta Vecchia. It is the episcopal residence, and is embellished with a fine cathedral ornamented with an abundance of green and yellow antique marble, and the interior is completely hung with crimson damask trimmed with a broad gold lace. From the top of the spire Mount Etna is clearly discoverable, though situated at the distance of two hundred miles.

In the vicinity of this church is a small grotto, which contains an excellent statue of St. Paul, and the inner surface of the roof is covered with a white lichen.

In the environs of the old city are large caverns, divided into such numerous ramifications, that it has been found necessary to block up the entrance of some of the subterraneous galleries, as they really formed a labyrinth, in which any person might have lost himself, and perished for want of assistance. They were formerly used as places of sepulture, and still retain the name of catacombs. On each side are various stone tombs, placed one above another, and some of them are covered with a convex lid. They seem also to have served as places of retreat to the Maltese, when their island was laid waste by the cruel scourge of war.

The island of Malta is situated almost centrally between Africa and Sicily, in the Mediterranean sea. Its extreme length is about twenty-one miles, and its breadth twelve. Properly speaking, it is no other than a rock, almost entirely bare; but its substance is a white calcareous stone, of a loose texture, little solidity, and not repugnant to vegetation. The contemplative traveller, however, cannot refrain from admiring the industry of the Maltese, who, by dint of labour and perseverance, have contrived to clothe

a rock (which in the best part is only covered with a few inches of earth) with the charming and varied productions of Ceres and Pomona. In order to effect this, they are obliged to excavate and beat the rock into pieces: one portion is then reduced by the labourers into minute parts, and mixed with a thin layer of mould, which they occasionally fetch from Sicily, while the fragments that were nearest the surface serve to enclose the field with a dry wall, to prevent the rain from carrying away the vegetative earth. This method is generally successful; and the mixture proves so fertile, that corn, millet, and annual cotton are sown to great advantage; fig- and other fruit-trees thrive remarkably well upon it; and it produces those oranges that are universally known, and justly esteemed, in most parts of Europe, for the richness of their pulp and their delightful flavour. Yet, notwithstanding all the painful labours of the Maltese, and their unwearied attention to agriculture, it must be acknowledged that their country is by no means pleasant. The eye is fatigued by the uncouth appearance of numerous walls, white stones, and a dry yellow soil rarely spotted with trees or verdure; and even those parts that are diversified with the various crops of the earth assume a cheerless aspect, as being too visibly the effect of art unassisted by the gifts of nature.

A large garden, that was laying out at St. Antonio, belonging to the grand master, at the distance of a mile and a half from the town, is mentioned by Sonnini as one of the most surprising efforts of Maltese industry: it abounds with a fine double poppy, a beautiful kind of scabious, and other flowers; and is consequently a miracle in such a country as we have already described; though, on a different soil, it would be deemed but a very indifferent garden. The walks were entirely covered with fragments of white stone, and were of course disgusting to the eye and unpleasant to the feet. The grand master gave a

grand entertainment to the travellers, at this country house. In town, no person was allowed to eat with this petty prince; and even here it was only some particular persons who were admitted to that honour. After dinner, however, he laid aside all restraints, and mixed, with evident good humour, among the company.

The territory of Malta is by no means sufficient for the support of its inhabitants; but, on the contrary, the greatest part of the corn, cattle, and all other necessaries of life, are brought from Sicily, which may be justly termed the market and granary of the Maltese. The vessels employed for the conveyance of provisions are accounted the fastest sailers in the world, and are generally navigated by the best and the most courageous mariners.

Various kinds of fish are found near the coast of Malta, among which the accola, or white tunny, is held in the highest estimation; it is smaller than the common tunny, but its flesh is whiter and more delicate. There is likewise a fishery of coral and of several kinds of shell fish, as the datoli, the pinnae, the spiny oyster, the tathys, tellinae, whelks, &c. The paper nautilus is sometimes met with, but is sufficiently rare to be accounted a curiosity.

During the twelve days that were spent by our author at Malta, the wind was strong and changeable, the sea was extremely rough, and it rained without intermission, though he was credibly informed that it had never been known to rain in the month of June for the course of forty years. The inhabitants were naturally amazed at such extraordinary weather, and the galleys of the order were brought back into the harbour. They were literally encumbered with people; the admiral's galley alone carrying eight hundred men. Their decorations were superb, consisting of a profusion of carved work richly gilt; their large sails were striped blue and white, with a large cross of Malta painted in the centre; their elegant

flags waved in the air with peculiar majesty; and when under sail every thing concurred to make them a splendid spectacle. They were, indeed, chiefly preserved by the order as a vestige of its ancient magnificence, as their construction rendered them equally unfit for an engagement, or to encounter a violent storm.

As the island of Malta had passed successively through the hands of several nations before it became the domain of the hospitalers of St. John of Jerusalem, who afterwards exchanged that humble title for the appellation of knights, remains of antiquity are commonly found; and there are persons who boldly assert, that the Maltese language is still more ancient than the greater part of these ruins. It has indeed long been supposed a base compound of Arabic and Italian; but a learned native has recently demonstrated that the Maltese may vie with the most copious of the living languages.

On the 7th of June our author and his associates sailed from the harbour of Malta, and on the 12th came within sight of the island of Cerigo, the ancient Cythera, situated at the entrance of the Archipelago of the Levant: they also observed, at a small distance, four steril, lofty, and desolate rocks; and on the following day cast anchor in the deep bay of La Suda, in the island of Candia, from whence they sailed towards the low and sandy coast of Egypt, and, after a passage of a few days, arrived safely at Alexandria.

It may be easily conceived that a city planned by the command of an Alexander, and designed by a Dinocrates, must have been originally very magnificent. It was also embellished by some of the Egyptian kings with admirable establishments; and its commerce was at one time, confessedly, the greatest of any place on the face of the earth: but, on the introduction of luxury, elegant amusement degenerated into licentiousness; public morals were gradu-

nous, that are constantly seen crowding the streets, in apparent haste and agitation, presents a singular mixture of dresses and manners to a contemplative spectator, who might be easily led to suppose, from their loud tone of voice, distorted features, and violent gestures, that they actually intended to destroy each other, when they are only cheapening some article of traffic, after their accustomed manner. From this remark, it is easy to imagine what dreadful excesses such persons are capable of, who, on the most common occasion, bear the semblance of furies. When they are really incensed, and their minds equally agitated with their bodies, they abandon themselves to the most ungovernable passion, and really resemble those terrific beasts of prey, which spread death and desolation over the arid and ensanguined desert.

Cruel and revengeful in their disposition, the Egyptians are never contented with even the most ample satisfaction, unless they stain their hands with the blood of him whom they have declared their enemy. They indeed conceal their animosity for a considerable time, if an opportunity does not immediately offer for their diabolical purpose; but the effects of their malice are finally sure, and terribly irrational. If, for instance, a Frank has by any means provoked them, they wreak their revenge indiscriminately upon every European who comes within their power, and thus deprive themselves of their only possible excuse, and render their revenge a most glaring act of atrocity.

The Arabic language is in general use at Alexandria, and in all other parts of Egypt; but such of the citizens as have any commercial intercourse with Europeans speak the Italian, which has considerable currency in all the ports of the Levant.

A profusion of sand, dust, and rubbish, constitutes an abode well adapted to the present Alexandrians, whose ignorance still serves to augment the desolation. Prostrate or insulated columns, broken

statues, dispersed capitals, entablatures, and fragments of various kinds are completely strewed over the environs of the city, which now may be justly styled a hideous theatre of the most horrible destruction. Afflicted at the sight of fallen grandeur and contemned magnificence, the generous traveller sighs with regret over the numerous ruins, and burns with a laudable indignation against a barbarous race, whose sacrilegious hands have wantonly destroyed many monuments, which even the corroding tooth of time would hitherto have spared.

The present enclosure of Alexandria consists of solid walls, and a hundred vaulted towers, the circumference of which is only six miles; whereas the ancient city, according to the best authorities, was nearly twenty-four miles round. The architecture is evidently in the manner of the Arabs; columns and other fragments of antique monuments have been employed in their construction; and several inscriptions on the towers, in Arabic and Kuphic characters, fully substantiate the nature of their origin.

Near the coast, and towards the eastern extremity of the crescent formed by the new port, stand two obelisks, called Cleopatra's needles: one of them still retains its original position; but the other is thrown from its base, and almost buried in the sand. Our author was not able, at the time of his visit, to take their dimensions; but one of his countrymen, who seems to have measured them with equal care and exactness, asserts that they are fifty-eight feet six inches high, and seven feet square at the base, according to the French measure, of which, our readers may observe, the French foot is to the English in nearly the same proportion as 16 to 15. They are hewn out of a single block of granite, and are completely covered with hieroglyphics.

At a small distance from these obelisks the palace of the Egyptian monarchs once raised its magnificent head, and many superb vestiges of its original gran-

deur are still discernible. The ruins now yield an abundance of granite and marble to the worthless citizens, who constantly profane them in the construction of their own houses with other materials. Medals, and other curiosities, were formerly found on this spot with the greatest facility; but, owing to the reiterated visitation of Europeans, they are now become extremely scarce.

Without the south gate of the wall, the largest column that was ever raised still rears its noble head, triumphant over ignorance, time, and blind superstition. It is composed of three pieces of beautiful granite, out of which are hewn the pedestal, the shaft, and capital. Its height is about ninety-five feet, and the mean diameter is seven feet and three quarters: consequently the solid contents of the column may be computed at six thousand cubic feet: and as it is a well-known fact, that one cubic foot of red granite weighs a hundred and eighty-five pounds, its weight must be equivalent to one million one hundred and ten thousand pounds avoirdupois.

The ground upon which this pillar stands having sunk, a part of the plinth that sustains it is exposed to view. It is a granite block, of only six feet square, on which rests a pedestal of much larger dimensions than itself; a fact which sufficiently proves the exact perpendicularity of the whole erection.

It seems extremely probable, from a large circular hollow that has been discovered in its upper part, by some persons who contrived to ascend thither for the satisfaction of their curiosity, that the capital originally served as a base to some statue, the remains of which are now, in all likelihood, irrecoverably lost. A native of France informed our author that he had discovered some fragments of a statue near the pillar, which seemed to have been of a prodigious size; but, finding his labour fruitless in searching for the remainder, he had thrown them into the sea at a certain part, where they were seen by Sonnini, but so obscured

by the sand, that he could not possibly make out what they were. His informer asserted that the fragments were of the finest porphyry.

Though various and numerous conjectures have been frequently started, and still exist, concerning the time and motives of the erection of the famous Alexandrian column, it would be difficult to change the appellation so long affixed to it, and which it will probably retain through succeeding ages, viz. Pompey's Pillar. Some indeed boldly affirm that it was raised by Cæsar, in commemoration of the great victory over Pompey at Pharsalia; others, that it was a monument of gratitude of the Alexandrians towards the Roman emperor Alexander Severus; and a third class attribute its elevation to the commands of Ptolemy Euergetes, one of the kings of Egypt; while our author seems inclined to attribute the honour of its erection to those ancient times, which produced so many Egyptian prodigies, when thousands of men were employed whole years in the conveyance of masses of stone, the very moving of which seemed to mock the greatest exertion of human strength.

To the southward of Pompey's pillar is a deep, oblong, and spacious valley, called Giurgé by the natives. It contains some fragments of ancient buildings, several detached parts of granite columns, and a cave, into which, however, it is not possible now to enter. The next place worthy of notice is the kalish or canal of Alexandria.

In the time of the Egyptian kings, the city was not surrounded with that sterile waste which at present renders its environs disgusting; but, on the contrary, it was refreshed with a salutary coolness, and the surrounding soil was fertilized by the lake Mareotis, and two large canals, one of them descending from Upper Egypt, and the other coming from a branch of the Nile called the Bolbitic. These useful and agreeable works were kept in tolerable repair under the government of the caliphs; but the rage of the Turks for destruc-

tion has dried up those charming reservoirs, so that nothing now remains but the canal of Lower Egypt, and even that is in a ruinous condition. It has three bridges over it of modern construction, and during the inundation it receives the waters of the Nile at Latf, opposite Fouah.

At a small distance, by the sea-side, is the entrance of the subterraneous aqueduct that conveys the water of the Alexandrians into their cisterns, the arches of which supported the whole extent of the ancient city, and formed one of the most beautiful monuments in the world. It was by so easy a method of communication that merchandise was formerly conveyed through Egypt. The perils of the sea were thus eluded, and the dangerous passage of the mouth of the Nile was avoided, with equal facility. Yet, notwithstanding such evident and inestimable advantages, this canal has been stupidly neglected by an ignorant and barbarous people. The walls that sustained the banks were, at the period of our author's visit, dropping to decay; the stream itself was impassable for boats, and seemed to threaten the citizens with a total want of water: in which case modern Alexandria might have sunk amidst the surrounding ruins, and have become a prey to the savage animals that frequently prowl around its walls, and fill the evening air with their horrid cries.

The banks of the canal are enlivened by a few trees and shrubs, and in some places they are clothed with occasional patches of verdure, whither a number of small birds usually resort, among which our traveller remarked the fig-pecker, the sky-lark, and an abundance of sparrows. Those of the former descriptions are only birds of passage at Alexandria; but the sparrows, like those of Europe, are equally remarkable for effrontery, familiarity, and voracity, seemingly determined to partake, at all events, of the dwellings and provisions of the natives. Exclusive of a few fields, where barley is sown, and where a-

tichokes and other vegetables are cultivated, the adjacent country presents nothing to the spectator but rocks, sands, and general sterility. The cultivation was formerly much larger, and might have been still extended with the greatest facility by the Alexandrians; but that ignorant and inactive race, who made no effort to preserve the only water that was potable, could not be expected to make any exertion to procure to themselves either comfort or abundance.

In the vicinity of the canal are long subterraneous galleries, hewn out of the rock, and distinguished by the name of the Catacombs. In all probability they were originally the quarries from whence the stones were extracted for the construction of the city, and were then set apart for the purpose of sepulture. Most of the passages have fallen in; but a few of them served to satisfy our author's curiosity, who discovered, on each side the interior, three rows of tombs placed one above the other. At the extremity of some of the galleries there are separate chambers, with their peculiar tombs, most probably designed for the interment of some particular family, or class of citizens. The Arabs confidently affirm that these catacombs have a communication with the pyramids of Memphis. This assertion, however, is not readily believed by our author, as he confesses such a vast extent appears exaggerated. It is indeed a well known fact, that they reach as far as the sea at the head of the old port, where three excavations in the rock, honoured by the Egyptians with the appellation of Cleopatra's baths, seem to be a continuation of them.

During his residence at Alexandria Sonnini lodged at the French factory, which he describes as a quadrangular building situated at the head of the new port, and enclosing a large court-yard round which are the warehouses under arcades: the latter are supported by fragments of pillars taken from the ruins of the ancient city. Several are of granite, and one is of porphyry. In the midst of the yard is

a statue, of white stone, representing a woman with a child by her side; the sculpture is tolerably good, and the drapery in particular is well executed: but it has received many and frequent injuries from the bales of merchandise that are continually tossing about, and sometimes fall upon it with such force as to mutilate it. The apartments are built over the warehouses, consequently the windows are at a considerable height from the ground. The only avenue to this spacious enclosure is shut up by a single gate of great solidity, and in times of tumult bales of goods are usually piled up against it as a further security. If, however, the insurrection be not easily appeased, and the least fear is entertained of the populace breaking in, all the merchants contrive to slip from the windows* in the course of the night, and to take refuge on board of some vessel in the harbour.

Having heard of a curious antique monument, that was in a mosque, without the walls of the city, our author expressed a wish to see it; but on the intimation of his desire, he received the strongest assurances that it was impracticable. He, however, contrived to bribe the iman of the mosque, and by his connivance had an opportunity of examining the edifice and its contents at his leisure. The mosque itself is very ancient, the walls are incrustated with marbles of different colours, and some beautiful pieces of mosaic well repaid the trouble of our adventurer to satisfy his curiosity. The tomb, which was the more immediate object of his research, is probably one of

* Sonnini had one day an opportunity of witnessing the extreme terror with which the bare idea of an Alexandrian riot filled the souls of the Gallic merchants. A person happening to say that an Egyptian was slain by a native of Europe, the gates of the factory were hastily shut, bales of goods ordered to be moved, in order to sustain the expected shock, and all the inmates of the factory were preparing to escape to the harbour, by dropping from the windows; when they were happily informed that it was one Mahometan who had killed another.

the finest pieces of antiquity in Egypt. It is very large, and would be an oblong square, were not one of its sides rounded off in the manner of a bathing-tub. It is formed of one piece of black and spotted marble, elegantly diversified with green, yellow, and red, and is covered with so great a profusion of hieroglyphics, that a month would, in all probability, be too short a space to admit of their being faithfully copied. The sarcophagus is now used by the Mahometans as a reservoir, to contain water for their religious ablutions.

It seems that a continual communication with the various nations of Europe has in some degree disposed the Alexandrians to more toleration, in some particulars, than the rest of the Egyptians; as for instance, Europeans are by them permitted, as well as by the inhabitants of Rosetta, to wear their native dresses, while in every other part of Egypt they are forbidden to appear without being clad in the oriental fashion. This indulgence, however, must by no means be abused; for if the Europeans venture to show themselves in any number, or with any degree of parade, at a distance from the shipping, they instantly draw upon themselves the insults of the populace.

It is a remarkable fact, that notwithstanding the stupid barbarism of a people, who, as we have already observed, have so shamefully neglected, and sometimes destroyed, the most precious relics of antiquity, they still preserve a solemn respect for the name of the illustrious conqueror whose superb monuments lie scattered around their habitations. “Thou art an *Alexander*,” is, in their opinion, the highest encomium upon human valour: so true it is that, when the sculptured marble falls neglected to the dust, and the statue of bronze is confounded with the common ruins of a city, great actions will survive those perishable monuments, and claim an unabated admiration from the children of posterity.

European merchandise is conveyed by water from Alexandria to Cairo, from whence it is sent to all the different parts of Arabia, Upper Egypt, and Abyssinia. The small vessels, used for this purpose, between Alexandria and Rosetta, are denominated *germs*; generally of about five or six tons burden. Their construction is tolerable, and they draw little water; yet they are frequently destroyed in a high wind, or swallowed up among the sands, and there perish, together with their crews and cargoes. During the increase of the Nile, these accidents are less frequent; but, when the river has retired to its bed, it is so extremely shallow at the mouth, that the Egyptian mariners never pass it without trembling. Towards the end of the year 1777 the Damietta branch of the Nile was entirely choked up, and the first boats that attempted a passage were lost: the danger attending the Rosetta branch seemed likewise to increase greatly every year: yet it was irrational to suppose, that the ignorance and apathy of the Egyptians should ever contrive to confine the water, and give more depth to the channel.

Among a variety of salt water fishes, caught by the natives on the Alexandrian coast, Sonnini particularly remarked the kind of ray, denominated the sea-eagle; the *borito*, a species of small tunny; the *gar* fish, the *sur* mullet, and the *basse*, which formerly occupied a distinguished place upon the tables of the Romans. Our author procured one of these fish, which was thirty inches long; the colour of its body was a dark blue clouded with gray; its head was blueish, and its gills were fancifully spotted with red.

It is known to the Provençal sailors by the name of *carousse*, and has received the appellation of *lupus* on account of its surprising voracity.

On the 12th of July our author set out from Alexandria, with M. Tott the inspector-general, and a numerous company in his suite, among whom was the traveller Savary. These foreigners, habited after

the French fashion, offended the inhabitants, and were saluted, in their passage through the city, with a shower of stones and much abusive language. At a small distance from the town a mischance of another kind befel them, as the ass that carried their provisions indignantly upset his panniers, to ease himself of the unpleasant weight, and reduced bottles, plates, pâtés, and every thing to one common mass of ruin. Near half an hour elapsed before the scattered fragments could be collected, and placed upon a horse of a gentler disposition. The travellers were then overtaken by the night, which proved exceedingly dark: they proceeded, however, till they had performed half the journey, when they stopped to take a little rest. When the time came for them to resume their progress, a great uproar and dispute arose concerning the mules, which had been turned loose, and could not now be either found or distinguished with facility. The muleteers soon began to exchange blows; the janizaries beat the contending parties; and a whole hour was lost in this comic scene of confusion; while Sonnini, with an old servant, a bombardier belonging to the navy, and a young draughtsman, had taken the precaution to secure their respective animals, and consequently enjoyed at their ease the ludicrous behaviour of their quarrelsome companions. At length, however, the tumult ceased; the signal was given for departure; and at about six o'clock the next morning they arrived at Rosetta, from whence they set off in the afternoon for Cairo; and after remaining there for a month, chiefly within doors, they returned to Alexandria with the same rapidity as they had performed their excursion.

The journey from Alexandria to Rosetta is usually taken by night, as the travellers then avoid the inconvenience of an ardent sun; but Sonnini, having been accustomed to hot climates, was able to bear the strongest heat of the solar rays, and was consequently enabled to ascertain many particulars, of which

persons of a weaker constitution were obliged to remain ignorant. This journey is usually performed in about twelve hours. As there are no carriages in the country, mules are made use of, which may be hired at different places on moderate terms. Their pace is a long amble, which is very pleasant to the rider; and they are so well acquainted with the road, though there is no beaten track over the sand, that it is unnecessary to guide them either by day or night.

On quitting Alexandria, the road lies in an east north-east direction, along the base of a promontory that stretches out to the northward of the city. The coast is here more elevated than that of the Tower of Arabs, and is agreeably spotted with habitations and patches of verdure. At the point of the promontory stands the town of Aboukir, erected on the ruins of the ancient Canopus.

At the distance of eighteen miles from hence, are the remains of the Canopic branch of the Nile; it is at present, however, only a salt-water lagoon, and has no communication with the river, except at the time of its greatest increase. It may commonly be forded with safety, unless the depth of the water is augmented; when it must be passed in a boat. The mouth of this ancient branch of the Nile is extremely narrow, and formed by a bank of sand. Upon the eastern bank stands a large square building, constructed upon the same principles as the generality of Egyptian caravanseras; but Sonnini observes that it is unworthy the name of an inn, bestowed upon it by Corneille le Bruyn, as it merely contains a well of disagreeable water. About a mile and a half further, are discernible upon the coast, in a clear day, some dilapidated walls, and other ruins which are probably the remains of the ancient Heraclium.

Proceeding along the sea-shore, which is abundantly covered with a variety of shells, and agreeably enlivened by the visits of the sea-lark, the variegated horseman, the curlew, and the dusky sand-piper, tra-

vellers arrive at the tomb of a Mahometan saint, where they are supplied, by a resident Arab, with coffee and brackish warm water. The latter, however, proves sufficiently acceptable, after a tedious march over the sands, and the inconvenience of an exposure to the violent heat of the sun. From hence they proceed to a brick tower*, which warns them to quit the beach, and several others of a similar construction occur in their way to Rosetta, as otherwise they might lose themselves upon a moving plain; and so much the more easily, because the city is obscured, on the western side, by accumulated heaps of sand, and consequently does not strike the eye till they arrive at the very entrance of the first street.

The scene then changes, as by enchantment, from hideous arid plains and dismal ruins, to a handsome and populous town, a beautiful series of gardens, and an immense tract of cultivated land, where nature smiles in her gayest attire, and lavishes her gifts with unexampled profusion. Rosetta is built in a simple yet agreeable style. On the eastern side it is washed by the majestic Nile, which bears tranquilly on its bosom the wealth of many nations, and richly fertilizes the circumjacent country. On the north, the city is embellished with a wilderness of aromatic odours; for here the gardens are not divided by regular beds and walks, as in the enclosures of Europe; but, on the contrary, every thing seems to grow entirely by chance. The boughs of the orange and the lemon tree are frequently interwoven; the pomegranate hangs by the side of the anona; esculent vegetables flourish beneath the balmy shade, and the lofty palm majestically rises above the surrounding trees. Here fragrant bowers, intersected by winding paths, and rendered still more salubrious by the crystal

* Some of the towers are much larger than others, and are not solid, but afford in their interior an oratory to the Mahometans, and a welcome shelter to exhausted travellers in general.

streamlet that glides between the tufted grove, and kindly diffuses the aliment of vegetation, scarcely admits the penetrating rays of the sun; while the sweet cooing of the turtle doves seems well adapted to reproach the gloomy and insensible Turk, who devotes the passing day, amidst this charming retirement, to his pipe and his coffee, ignorant of the exquisite delights of a refined love, and too proud to admit the beauties of his harem to a participation of his pleasures.

On the opposite side of the river is the Delta, a plain that has no other boundary than the horizon; a beautiful country, sprung from the bosom of the water, where in the same year the husbandman rejoices in the luxuriance of the yellow harvest and a rich display of verdant pastures; where, like the vicinity of Rosetta, the scenery is elegantly diversified with odoriferous groves, clumps of evergreens, and a profusion of vegetables, while the fleecy tenants of the mead roam carelessly over their native soil, and towns and villages, lakes, canals, and the distant turrets of cities, complete the charms of the matchless landscape.

Rosetta, from the superiority of its houses to those of Cairo, its pleasant situation upon the river, its charming prospects, perfumed groves, and salubrious air, has justly received the appellation of the Garden of Egypt. It is indeed the most agreeable town in that part of the globe. It is the emporium of traffic between Cairo and Alexandria; it diffuses thither motion, life, and comfort; and its own shops are abundantly supplied with all sorts of merchandise, and all the necessities of life, the latter of which may be procured at a very reasonable price. Remote from the noise of sea-ports, and strange to those revolutions which frequently happen at Cairo, the inhabitants are tolerably peaceable, and even an European there experiences much less mortification than at Cairo or at Alexandria. It is true, indeed, he sometimes encounters a few unpleasant occurrences which

arise from the ridiculous pride and ignorance of the Mussulmen, who suppose themselves the only men who are in the favour of their Creator, and regard all others as dogs and infidels. Indeed the epithet of dog and Christian are accounted so truly synonymous in Egypt, that our author and his companions were often saluted in this brutal manner by persons who had no intention to insult them. The Jews are also exposed to the abuse of the populace, and are, in general, much worse treated than the Christians of Europe. It is true, the individuals of that people deserve such degradation, as, provided they can but gratify their sordid and covetous disposition by the accumulation of wealth, however unjustly gotten, they seem perfectly insensible to the contempt and opprobrium that are so liberally bestowed upon them. Besides the oriental dress, they are necessitated to wear a particular mark of distinction upon their heads and feet, and also to cut their beards in a peculiar manner.

The generality of the merchants are either Turks or Syrians; there are indeed some from the coast of Barbary; degenerate descendants of the ancient Egyptians, called Copts; and Arabs, who have settled in the town, and the adjacent plains. The command of Rosetta, at our author's arrival, was in the hands of an officer of the Mamelukes, who bore the title of aga.

We have already observed that the favourite amusements of the natives are derived from their coffee and tobacco. They may, indeed, be said to have their pipes in their mouth continually, whether abroad or at home, on foot or on horseback. The shank of one of their pipes is excessively long, and is formed of the most rare and odoriferous wood. Sonnini conveyed one to France, that was of jasmine, and upwards of six feet long. Those of commoner wood are wrapped round with silk, or gold wire. The top of the pipe is covered with a sort of factitious alabaster, and enriched with precious stones.

To the extremity of the shanks are fitted pretty bowls of clay, shaped like a vase, curiously inlaid and marbled with different colours. They are generally brought from Turkey; and the reddish clay, of which they are formed, is procured from the neighbourhood of Constantinople. The tobacco bag is also an article of Turkish luxury; this is usually made of silken stuff richly embroidered, and is suspended from the sash or girdle that constitutes a part of the oriental habit. The poorer class, to whom the smoking of tobacco seems a call of necessity, make use of common shanks, of reed. Their tobacco has not that acrid taste which in the nations of Europe provokes a continual spitting; nor is it necessary to draw its smoke up strongly, as it almost rises of itself, through the elegant and perfumed tubes that are appropriated to its use: consequently the habit of smoking incessantly is neither so strange nor disagreeable as is imagined by the natives of other countries, who are used to short pipes and strong tobacco.

Such of the orientals as are not absolutely obliged to maintain themselves by manual labour, usually enjoy the coolness of their orchards, the rich perfume of their gardens, or the vicinity of the water, by sitting with their legs crossed under them. They never walk, unless they have absolute occasion; nor can they be said to know any thing of exercise, except on horseback; for they are extremely fond of riding. An European walking about, either in a room or in the open air, is to them an object equally curious and incomprehensible. They universally consider his motions either as the result of insanity, or a compliance with the dictates of his medical countrymen, who have prescribed him such an uncommon exercise for the cure of some distemper. Similar ideas are entertained on this subject by the African negroes and the savages of South America, whose vacant minds are never occupied by meditation, and who consequently have no need of such an alleviation from a too intense application.

When the wealthy and indolent Turk has satiated himself with the sweet warbling of the birds, and the balsamic breeze that plays on the foliage of his garden, he goes to the coffee-house*, where he sits in solemn state, with a pipe in one hand and a dish of coffee in the other; whilst merry Andrews, female dancers, and story-tellers attempt, by turns, to captivate his attention, and to procure a few pieces of money. But little conversation is carried on among the company, as the natural pride and reserve of the Turk incite him to treat other people with the most profound contempt. The African indeed is more loquacious, but he wishes to ape the manners of the Turk; and those who are not Mahometans endeavour to secure their personal safety by the most abject submission to the inclination of their tyrants.

If a person has any acquaintance with the inhabitants of Rosetta, he can hardly pass through a single street without being solicited to enter some house and take coffee: "This politeness," says Sonnini, "is so habitual, that even those who have not a grain of coffee in their possession never fail to make the offer, though they would be much embarrassed were it accepted." The coffee berries are here roasted in an earthen pan, and then pounded in a mortar; by which preparation their flavour is preserved much better than by reducing them to powder in a mill. According to the Egyptian connoisseurs, forty berries are requisite to make a cup.

The women, who are secluded from the world and its enjoyments, in the harem of a Mameluke, Turk, or other wealthy inhabitant, are not Egyptians, but were formerly brought from those parts of Greece where beauty is a regular and valuable article of commerce. Their natural charms are carefully preserved

* These are places filled with smoke, but destitute of any decoration; nor can the company procure any thing but coffee, and burning charcoal for the purpose of lighting their pipes.

from the ardent rays of the sun, and the ill effects of a saline air; yet their beauty languishes beneath the suspicion and barbarities of a jealous tyrant, and their minds are consequently tormented with perpetual uneasiness. An insurmountable line of separation is indeed apparently drawn between the two halves of mankind in the oriental countries; as the graces of the softer sex, admirably contrasted by nature with the strength and manly beauties of the other, are here exclusively possessed by a few illiberal wretches, who will not permit any other man either to introduce himself into their company, or even to address them, if they chance to walk beyond the limits of their prison, without avenging the supposed insult by the sacrifice of the offender. The unhappy captives are indeed solicitous to break some links of their galling chain, and they have been frequently known to make the first advances: but such intrigues are attended with extreme danger; nor can their assignations be possibly kept without a conscious fear of the most tragic consequences.

During our author's first stay at Cairo, he came one day, by chance, upon a young Frenchman, who was employed in making a variety of signs, behind the half-drawn curtains of a window, in the consul's house, to a woman who resided on the opposite side of the canal, and who answered his silent but expressive motions through a wooden lattice, though at the distance of more than sixty feet. Sonnini obtained permission to witness this curious conversation, and was soon afterwards a perfect master of the art which he at first viewed with admiration. The young man then quitted Cairo; and our traveller, understanding that their conferences had been repeated several times a day, at stated hours, presented himself at the window in place of his absent instructor, and gave the lady to understand that, being his countryman, he came to express the same sentiments, and to offer her the same homage. Sonnini, howeve

was soon tired of extending his wishes to a person whose beauty might possibly be imaginary, and therefore requested her to exhibit herself more completely to his view. This proposal caused her to make some difficulties; but they were all vanquished by the energetic persuasions of her admirer, and she promised to ascend upon the terrace of her house towards the evening. Sonnini was true to the hour of appointment, and saw a woman elegantly dressed; but she wore her veil, which entirely concealed her face, and excited his vexation still more than the lattice of her window. He petitioned, in the most urgent manner, that this intrusive article of dress might be removed, and a black female, who accompanied the lady, joined her exhortations to his entreaties; but their united efforts were all in vain, as, among these women, it is accounted the greatest of favours to unveil, and, by a singular kind of modesty, they would rather suffer their whole body to be seen than to show their face. Next day, however, the solicitations of the Europeans were renewed with more success, as the officious negro-girl, who was indisputably acquainted with the inclinations of her mistress, snatched away the veil, and discovered a young and pretty woman, whose cheeks were overspread with the carnation tint of bashfulness, which, however, softened by degrees, and finally relinquished its seat to the native roses of feminine beauty.

From that moment the greatest freedom reigned in their interviews, and Sonnini was soon invited to the house, with many assurances of safety, and was given to understand that the husband of his innamorata, who was an old Turkish merchant, would be absent for some time. The serious consequences which might probably attend his compliance now presented themselves to his view, and he began to make difficulties which the most loving entreaties and the most affectionate promises could not overcome. Several evenings passed away in the contest between the elo-

quent invitations of a tender passion and a prudential, though often feeble resistance till at length the fruitless interviews were ended by the discharge of a musquet from one of the neighbouring terraces, that convinced our author of his personal danger, and made him feel how wisely he had acted in not attempting to cross the canal.

It is not enough for the opulent Mahometans, that their ladies are endowed with the most exquisite beauties of nature, but their splendour must be likewise augmented by the arts of the toilet; which are here held in the highest estimation; but these arts consist only of ancient and constant practices, of which the following are the most remarkable:

As a peculiar trait of oriental beauty is to have large black eyes, females, of every faith, rank, and description, dye their eye-brows with a tessellated ore of lead, called *alquifoux*. This is reduced to a powder, and mixed with the fuliginous vapour of a lamp, and with this composition they paint their eye-brows and eye-lashes. They also blacken their lashes with a small reed or quill, an operation admirably described by Juvenal in his satire on the Roman ladies. The higher classes of the Egyptians employ the fumes of amber, or some other odoriferous and oily substance, and keep their valuable drug, ready for use, in small phials.

Another fashion, equally general and essential to Egyptian beauty, requires that the hands and nails should be dyed red; and so universal is the adoption of this custom, that any person who should hesitate to conform to it would be accused of indecorum. Whatever may be their situation, whether of Mahometan, Jewish, or Christian faith, the women can no more dispense with this daubing than with their apparel, though it certainly spoils a fine hand, rather than improves it; as the delicate whiteness of the palm and the pale rose colour of the nails are effaced by a rough coat of reddish or orange-coloured

dye. The soles of the feet, which are not here hardened by long or frequent walks, are likewise covered plentifully with the same colouring. The fingers are sometimes painted partially; and in order that the colour should not take every where, the fair artists wrap them round with thread, leaving intermediate spaces, before they apply it, so that, when the operation is finished, their fingers are fancifully marked, in a spiral direction, with little orange-coloured stripes. Some of the Syrian women are partial to the mixture of black and white, and accordingly change their original dye to black, by a composition of sal ammoniac, lime, and honey.

A soft smooth skin, free from any appearance of roughness, is, either through motives of self-love or an ardent thirst of exciting admiration, one of the particular objects of desire in the Egyptian ladies. Every part of their body is polished with equal care; and, if Nature errs in furnishing the faces of any of the women with beards, they remove them effectually by an application of boiled honey and turpentine, or some particular gum, which is permitted to dry, and is then removed with all that adheres to it. This process is certainly extremely painful; but there is, fortunately, no occasion to recur frequently to the remedy, as it either produces a complete eradication, or, if a new growth appears, it is merely a light soft down, and may be removed with facility.

The taste of the men in the eastern countries is well known to be widely different from that of Europeans, with respect to their women; as, with them, extreme corpulence is accounted the greatest trait of beauty. It is, therefore, natural to suppose, that the females themselves are anxious to acquire some degree of superiority in this particular. They, accordingly, use a kind of conserve of cocoa nuts, or the bulbs of the *hermodactylus officinalis*, grated and mixed with sugar. Of this composition they usually take a large quantity, after any weakening

fits of illness, as it is supposed admirably adapted both to the restoration of their strength, and that *emboupoint* which is so delightful to their admirers.

It is but justice to add, that, among all the nations of the earth, there are no women who pay a more rigid attention to cleanliness than these orientals. Their thoughts are constantly occupied by the use of the bath, the application of perfumes, and of every thing that has a direct tendency to soften and beautify the skin. The most minute details succeed each other with scrupulous exactness, and they are well practised in the reparation of the ravages of time; "an art," says our author, "which has its principles and a great variety of practical receipts."

In Rosetta and its environs exists a horde of animals, which Nature seems to have designed for the peculiar service of man, though, by an absurd prejudice, founded on a religion still more ridiculous, the Mussulmen carefully avoid them as unclean beasts, and dare not touch them, under penalty of becoming themselves unclean. Hence a proper idea may be formed of the epithet *dog*, with which these conceited zealots salute an European. Widely different is this from the practice of the ancient Egyptians, who rendered peculiar honours to the dog, as being the most faithful and intelligent of animals; and so generally have these quadrupeds been accounted worthy of associating with man, in all ages and among all people, except the blind followers of the great impostor, that even the savages, who hardly associate with each other, keep dogs, and cheerfully share with them the fatigues and the produce of the chase.

By a strange contradiction, which to any other people than Mahometans would be altogether incomprehensible, there are few places on the face of the globe that contain so many dogs as the towns of Egypt, or at least they appear there in greater numbers than in any other nation, as their only habitation.

is the street, where they subsist on whatever food they can pick up by chance, at the doors of the houses, or among the filth of the receptacles for offal. Always liable to the blows of passengers, and sometimes to be butchered by an armed and ferocious mob, they nevertheless endeavour to render their best services to the barbarians among whom they live; and while their lean, wretched, and unhealthy appearance excites the compassion of every generous foreigner, their shameful treatment is sufficient to force a malediction from the lips of the most gentle, against the savage sons of ignorance and superstition who are the sole authors of such piteous misfortunes.

The Egyptian dogs are large greyhounds, which would be exceedingly handsome if they were treated with less severity: however, their instinct is not destroyed, though they have entirely lost the native elegance of their formation. They are seen passing to and fro in the most frequented streets, and carefully avoiding the Mahometan passenger, who turns aside his robe at their approach. During the night they assume a superintendence over the wharfs, boats, and timber, which no person confides to them, and a robber would find it impossible to touch the property of which they thus become the voluntary guardians. But what seems still more curious is, that these animals form distinct tribes, and have limits which they never exceed: they never quit the quarter where they first received their existence, and if a strange dog should presume to enter their confines, his life would most probably answer for his intrusion.

The Bedouins, who are much less addicted to superstition than the Turks, keep large greyhounds for the preservation of their tents and goods; but, instead of treating them with the shameful cruelty of barbarians, they are particularly careful of them, and bear them so great an affection, that any person who should attempt to kill one of them would undoubtedly fall a sacrifice to the resentment of the owner.

Notwithstanding their decided and unjust aversion for dogs, which have justly constituted the symbol of unalterable attachment and fidelity, the Turks are extremely fond of cats*, insomuch that, if one of them happens to enter a mosque, it is greatly caressed by the assembled zealots, as the favourite animal of their prophet, and the enemy of other troublesome creatures; whereas, if a dog should unluckily make his appearance at the same place, his presence would be considered as the most dreadful contamination, and he would be inevitably punished with instant death.

Among the ancient Egyptians, cats were greatly venerated, and their death was considered as so mournful an event, that their owners shaved their eyelids in token of their mourning; the bodies of the animals were likewise embalmed in the sacred temples, and from thence carried, solemnly, into Bubastis, a considerable city in Lower Egypt, where they were deposited in the sepulchres of the country.

There are cats in all the houses of Egypt. In those of the opulent, they are indulged in the best apartments, and partake of the indolence and effeminacy of their masters, who lavish upon them such caresses as their pride would refuse to beings of superior sense.

In the hot climates of those countries, which have been covered with colonies and flocks from periods far too remote to be ascertained with any precision, are reared the most gentle and docile animals of their species, while in the desert parts of the same countries such animals retain their native and original ferocity. The horse, which scours along the plain with sur-

* Nothing more was requisite to bring these animals into high estimation than an old tradition, which affirms that Mahomet, being once called upon some urgent business, preferred cutting off the sleeve of his robe, to disturbing his cat that lay upon it fast asleep.

prising rapidity, while his sparkling eyes, his mouth white with foam, and his large nostrils, that are scarcely sufficient for the egress of his checked and burning breath, claim the admiration of the spectator, and prove his participation in the ardour of the warrior, whom he carries to the midst of embattled hosts, is nevertheless extremely gentle in his disposition. The buffalo, scarcely taken from his native wilds, and still bearing the aspect of terrific fierceness, is as tractable as an European ox, and is so perfectly harmless that a child may safely venture to conduct a numerous drove.

This characteristic gentleness, however, must by no means be ascribed to the nature of the soil and food, the temperature of the climate, nor a natural indolence, which is observable in the sultry, but wet, regions of South America; but, on the contrary, it results entirely from the attention of the men who inhabit those countries, and who have found means to turn the conquest of useful animals to the greatest advantage.

As the itinerant nations, who have always occupied a considerable part of Egypt, have no other property than their flocks and herds, their attention is consequently engrossed by them, and directed towards their welfare and preservation. They neither despise nor forsake them, but permit them to live with themselves, and conduct them, together with their families, in all their wanderings and little excursions, to whatever spot they may choose for their temporary residence. The dromedary, after grazing at liberty during the day, comes of his own accord, in the evening, to repose in safety before his master's tent; and the same inclosure yields a nocturnal accommodation to the Bedouin and his family, a mare, an ewe, and several goats, which pass the night together without the least confusion, accident, or disturbance. From so familiar an intercourse with man, and the animals that are subjugated to his do-

minion, it is not at all surprising that the latter should prove so remarkably tame; and as the Bedouins usually furnish them to other inhabitants of the country, the reason that may be assigned for the docility of all the domestic animals in Egypt, is sufficiently obvious to excuse a further continuation of the subject.

Among the small number of oxen now existing in Egypt, it would be in vain to look for the vestiges of that beauty which they indisputably possessed in former times, when they were considered as gods by the ancient Egyptians, and universally worshipped with the most profound reverence. Heifers were then never slaughtered, but the law pronounced that person guilty of sacrilege who presumed to eat their flesh. Common oxen, when they chanced to die, were committed to the grave with solemn funeral rites; and those which had devoted their strength and youth to the labours of the field, were not permitted to be killed, but, on the contrary, were suffered to graze at pleasure on the pastures, during the remainder of their lives, as a just compensation for their important services.

The Egyptian breed is still tolerably handsome; but it may be naturally supposed that, being long neglected, it is much degenerated. Their horses are generally small, and of a deep fawn colour, and their flesh, in point of flavour, is greatly inferior to that which is eaten in Europe. Indeed it is a general observation of travellers, that the flesh of animals, in very hot regions, is neither so nutritious nor palatable as that of animals of the same species fed in cold or temperate countries. Veal, for instance, which in European climates affords a delicate and wholesome article of food, is in Egypt remarkable for flaccidity and insipidity. This remark seems to have been made by our author in some parts of South America, where the flesh of the calves is so extremely flabby at the age in which those of Europe are delivered to the

butcher, that it cannot possibly be eaten till the animals would be styled oxen by the natives of any other country. Veal is never served up to the Egyptian tables, as it is expressly forbidden by Mahomet; and the Copts, who have adopted a servile imitation of their rulers, alike abstain from its use.

The oxen are employed in tillage, which, in Egypt, requires but little exertion. Great numbers of them are likewise employed in the rice-mills at Rosetta and Damietta. They are consequently dear; and notwithstanding the rich supply of the adjacent pasturage, Sonnini affirms that, at the time of his visit, they commonly sold for the enormous sum of two hundred and fifty thousand livres a head. These animals, when harnessed, have their head at liberty, as the yoke is adjusted in such a manner as they may pull from the pitch of the shoulders. By this method they are more at ease, and have much more command of their strength than when they are in the wearisome and inconvenient attitude of drawing by the head. To this method may be ascribed the size of their withers, which is much greater than in the oxen of other countries; though it is not improbable that the swelling is in some degree natural, and that, in this respect, they may be said to approximate to the species of bison, or bunched ox.

An animal that might be added to those already domesticated by the Egyptians is the ichneumon. It was one of the objects of worship in ancient Egypt. Treated with particular care during its life, and highly honoured after its death, it was the supposed protector of the most singular country in the world, against a scourge the most dreadful to an agricultural people. Much has therefore been written, and many fabulous stories related of this quadruped, both by ancients and moderns, which have been occasionally copied in the historic page of successive travellers. Sonnini, however, had an opportunity of observing the ichneumon in its native coun-

try, and in a state of liberty ; he has therefore given the following account of the animal, and endeavoured to ascertain the extent of its usefulness, by reducing its boasted and exaggerated services to their just value.

With strong dispositions to familiarity, the ichneumon is not reared in the houses of the Egyptians, nor do they remember it having been so brought up by their ancestors. Similar in its habits to the weasel and polecat, this quadruped feeds promiscuously upon rats, birds, and reptiles. A natural fondness for eggs induces it frequently to rake up the sand, in search of those deposited there by the crocodiles, and thus it, in some degree, prevents the too great propagation of those hateful animals ; though the antipathy erroneously attributed to the ichneumon, against the crocodile, is really an innate sentiment in a species of tortoise of the Nile, which attacks and devours the young crocodiles as soon as they are hatched, and is thus successfully employed in their destruction, while the ichneumon receives the sole honour of a perpetual and desperate war said to subsist between them : yet the tortoise known to the Arabs by the name of cercé, and called thirsé by the Egyptians, has a much better title to the applause and admiration of writers, who merely contemplate it as an animal, to which Egypt is indebted for the most sensible diminution of a species of reptile whose hideous form and ferocious disposition are equally calculated to inspire sentiments of disgust and horror.

At the present day the name of ichneumon is unknown in Egypt, nor is the denomination of Pharaoh's rat now in use. The former is called the nems, and the appellation of herse is given to the weasel, by the present inhabitants, who bear no greater respect to the ichneumon than Europeans have for the marten or polecat.

Among several branches of commerce, that are

peculiar to Rosetta, is the exportation of rice, which is sown in Lower Egypt from the month of March to that of May. During the inundation of the Nile, the fields are completely covered with water; and small dikes, or raised embankments, are thrown up round each field, to prevent it from running off. Fresh supplies are likewise conducted thither by trenches, till the ground is so thoroughly moistened, that in some places a person might sink in half way up to his chin. In order to make the rice thrive, its root must be constantly watered. It is nearly six months before it comes to maturity; and it is usually cut down by the middle of November. To separate the grain from the straw, the Egyptians, who are unacquainted with the use of the flail, prepare, with a mixture of earth and pigeon's dung, spacious and clean floors, where the rice is spread out in thick layers for the needful preparation. A sort of sledge is then drawn by two oxen over every part of the heap, till no more grain is left in the straw. When it is thus beat out, it is spread in the air to be dried, and turned by several men, who walk abreast, and each of them with his foot makes a furrow in the layer of grain, so that the whole mass is moved in a very short time, and that part which was underneath is thus freely exposed to the air.

When properly dried, it is carried to the mill, where it is stripped of its husk; cleaned in a sieve; passed a second time through the mill for the purpose of bleaching; and finally mixed up in troughs with some salt, which contributes equally to its excellent colour and preservation. The preparatory process is then completed, and the rice is ready for sale. The profit of the proprietors of rice fields in favourable seasons, that is to say, when the rise of the Nile overflows a great extent of ground, is supposed equivalent to fifty per cent. after deducting every possible expense.

Sonnini frequently derived much pleasure and in-

formation from his excursions in the environs of Rosetta, where the plains are embellished with a rich variety of plants, and the groves are frequented by several species of birds, whose elegant plumage enlivens the scenery, and whose melodious notes arrest the attention of the passenger. On the 24th of October he went to an old dilapidated castle, which stands at some distance to the northward of the town. It was originally designed, with a similar building on the opposite bank of the Nile, as a defence to the entrance of the river. At present these castles are not much less than three miles from the sea. The former is said to have been erected by St. Lerrio in the time of the crusades, and several antique stones covered with hieroglyphics have been employed in its construction; it is, however, now almost demolished, and the few pieces of cannon that remain in it are totally unfit for service. In the course of his ramble our author killed some houhous, hoopoes, turtle doves, and a small owl.

The first of these birds, though frequently seen in the vicinage of Rosetta, and, according to the best accounts, in that of Damietta, was nevertheless overlooked by naturalists, till our author sent a description of it to his friend the celebrated Buffon, who, in conjunction with Guénau de Montbellard, has since published it in their natural history of birds.

The houhou, or Egyptian cuckoo, has very short wings, which are yet disproportionably long in comparison with its body; it is consequently unable to traverse, in the same flight, a space of any extent; and unless it meets with some bush to alight upon, it is soon obliged to fall to the ground: it is perfectly tame and easy of approach, and may properly be said to possess the faculty of flying merely in a sufficient degree to enable it to catch the insects on which it chiefly subsists. Unlike the common cuckoo, the houhous are not solitary birds; they live in pairs, hatch their eggs, and rear their young, with

the same affecting kindness that prevails among the feathered inhabitants of European groves. They delight in dwelling near the residence of man, and render him the most important services, by destroying such insects as would otherwise materially injure his harvests.

One of the birds most commonly seen in Lower Egypt, at the commencement of the winter, is the hoopoe, or dung-bird. It is by no means wild; but as its flesh is reckoned very indifferent, it is never killed by the inhabitants. The hoopoes are frequently seen in small flocks, and if one of them is separated from its companions, it calls them by a shrill cry, at the same time drawing in its bill close to the breast, and briskly raising its head. The hoopoes, likewise, utter a hoarse, disagreeable sound, in one note. Such of these birds as do not quit the country, are joined by flights of travellers, which come from the northern regions in quest of a warmer climate, and a better supply of food. These migratory birds are very fat, and their flesh is equally tender and palatable.

The turtle doves, which arrive in Egypt after the European autumn, and there spread themselves from the sea as far as Cairo, are of the common species; but those which constantly inhabit the same country form a distinct race. The top of their head and neck are a pale mixture of red and white, as are the back and the lesser wing coverts, but the red tint is the more predominant. Upon the upper part of the neck is a black semicircle; the throat and inferior coverts of the tail are white; the under part of the neck a light gridelin; the stomach and belly of a dingey white. The primary wing quills are brown, mingled with rufous, and the others cinereous, and tipped with a light, ash-coloured gray. The iris of the eye is orange, the bill cinereous, and the legs and feet of a fine rose colour. Turtle doves, of whatever species they may be, are always spared by

the Egyptians, who never eat them, but would rather consider it as a violation of hospitality to destroy a harmless race, which visits their country in perfect confidence, and enlivens their groves by their delightful cooings.

The little owl, that was shot by Sonnini in his walk to the ruinous castle, was rather different, in its plumage, from the owls in Europe; but, as the difference was not sufficient to constitute a distinct species, he has deemed it unnecessary to give any particular description of it.

Ducks of several species arrive annually in Lower Egypt from all quarters. The smaller kinds, as the sarcelles, or teal, generally appear about the beginning of October, and the larger come later. They all assemble upon the lakes of the Delta, and there form innumerable flocks which do not quit the country till the return of spring. A great quantity of these birds were sold, remarkably cheap, at the market of Rosetta; but it was almost impossible to procure one whose plumage was uninjured, or that was not mutilated; as their throats are either cut, or their wings broken and fastened upon their back, in compliance with the dictates of the Mussulmen, who are expressly commanded to eat no animal that has not been bled.

Thrushes arrive in these countries at the same season, and remain there till the month of March. They usually dwell near the habitations of the natives, or share the fragrant accommodations of the turtle doves, amidst the thick foliage of the orange and lemon trees.

Early in the morning, on the 5th of November, there fell a heavy shower of rain, at Rosetta, which was the first that had descended, in the course of the year, to cool the atmosphere of Lower Egypt. It may, therefore, be styled an interesting period, both upon this account, and because it was the beginning of the winter season, so denominated, be-

cause the temperature of the air became somewhat less sultry and oppressive.

Next day our author crossed the Nile, and amused himself with a long ramble over the moist and verdant grounds of the Delta. This part of lower Egypt is an extensive plain, but it has not the fatiguing monotony of other flat countries. The towns and villages are pleasantly situated upon small hills, above the level of the inundation, while shady bowers and beautiful trees, standing at a small distance from each other, limit the view, and only suffer it to extend through numerous vistas, to points more distant and equally agreeable. Fields, where fertility has fixed her abode; enclosures, where the rich fruit of the orange tree overhangs a profusion of esculent plants and odoriferous flowers; the rustic huts of the husbandmen; and the animals that rove around the pastures, combine together, to rejoice the soul and cheer the eye, in so charming and diversified a landscape; while a multitude of pretty songsters unite their melodious exertions to celebrate in one harmonic chorus the perpetual holiday of propitious Nature.

Besides turtle doves, of the two species, black-birds, and hoopoes, our author here observed several little egrets, or criel herons; of which there are two sorts. Their plumage is entirely of a dazzling white, but they differ in point of size. The individuals of the smaller species differ likewise in the colour of their feet, which in some of them are black, in others green, and in many of them yellow. This variety is, however, in all probability rather the effect of age, or sex, than any distinction of race. Some of them have long silky feathers upon the back, that serve to make plumes and tufts: but as this natural ornament is not seen upon all of them, it may in all likelihood be confined to the males. They are exceedingly numerous in the environs of Damietta. They are not, however, considered as

game by the inhabitants, nor are they ever brought to table as an article of food.

These egrets gave rise to a curious adventure, in our author's journey, with M. Tott, 'from Rosetta to Alexandria. The inspector-general, combining his knowledge of natural history with that of a little conceited surgeon whom he had taken with him, decided that the numerous egrets, which constituted the most beautiful ornament of the banks of the Nile, were in reality the ibis, or curlews of the ancients. In consequence of this opinion, a contemptuous smile was cast upon all preceding travellers, who had never discovered the ibis in Egypt; and, in spite of whatever Sonnini could say to the contrary, they firmly maintained their opinion, and congratulated each other on their important remarks. They now wished to make an ample collection of these birds; and accordingly, whenever they perceived an egret, they called out loudly to the Egyptian sailors to manage the boat so as to bring the bird within gun-shot. Near two hundred shots were fired; but, fortunately for the objects of their pursuit, they were as unskilful marksmen as uninformed naturalists. The sailors, who could not conceive the importance of so much fatigue, and so many interruptions to their navigation, soon lost all patience, and became outrageous with vexation; yet the firing would certainly have continued much longer, had not the surgeon, in a transport of ornithological enthusiasm, fallen into a large pot of lentils, that were cooking for the mariners, in the vessel's hold, and, by this ludicrous catastrophe, permitted the travellers to continue their route in peace.

On the 12th of November, our author, attended by an interpreter, a draughtsman, a janizary, and two servants, set out from Rosetta, in order to examine a place formerly celebrated under the name of Canopus, but now called Aboukir. They ascended the hills of sand, which encircle the western side

of Rosetta, entered the plain of Turrets, and from thence struck off to the sea-shore, which they followed as far as the lake Maadië.

After a tedious passage over this remnant of the Canopic bank of the Nile, they regained the sea-shore, where an embankment had been thrown up, to confine the waters, and about one o'clock in the afternoon they arrived at Aboukir.

At this village is a castle, built upon the point of a cape which projects into the sea. Beyond the cape some shoals stretch out, and enclose a small harbour at the foot of the castle, in front of which there is a good roadstead*. This was usually frequented by merchant ships, when they were necessitated, from tempestuous weather, to quit the new port of Alexandria; and also by the country germs when they were unable to proceed to Alexandria, or to clear the Boghass of the Nile at the mouth of the Rosetta branch.

Our author and his attendants alighted at the house of a Jew, named Mallum Yousef, who at that time held the place of agent to the French consul-general in Egypt, and who accommodated the travellers with pleasant and convenient apartments, where they partook of a frugal repast prepared by their landlord's wife, and then remounted their mules in order to visit the adjacent ruins.

These remains of an ancient city occupy a great extent of ground, and still offer many objects of admiration to the spectator; but, though much more valuable relics might be found under the surface, such researches are forbidden by a blind and superstitious people, who possess no other idea of riches than gold; and consequently suppose, that foreigners merely travel over their country with the hope of discovering and carrying off some hidden treasures.

* A place which will be ever memorable, on account of the glorious victory there obtained, over the fleet of the French republic, by the gallant admiral Nelson and his intrepid seamen.

Several beautiful granite columns were distinguished among the ruins, but they were all mutilated and thrown to the ground; their shafts, though exceedingly large, were fluted, and of one piece, and the capitals were of the most exquisite workmanship. Some openings to subterraneous avenues were likewise noticed; they were constructed of brick, and in tolerable preservation; but their entrance was nearly filled up with rubbish. These majestic ruins are called "The city of Pharaoh" by the natives of Aboukir; and Sonnini affirms that every thing he saw fully demonstrated the splendour and importance of its original edifices.

On the sea-shore may be seen the foundations of a large regular building, in the midst of which is a cavern, leading to the sea, where ruins are observable at a considerable distance. This seems a convincing proof of the great marine incroachment. Near these antique remains are numerous blocks of granite, and a colossal statue of a woman fluted all its length. This is likewise of granite; but it is thrown from its pedestal, and materially injured. There is also a large sphinx, partly mutilated, the pedestal of which is richly covered with hieroglyphics; but they are now almost effaced by the corroding tooth of time.

Such are the remains of the once beautiful and celebrated Canopus, where stood the magnificent temple of Serapis, where a profusion of luxurious pleasures invited crowds of foreigners to the city; and where the beauty of the climate, the fertility of the surrounding country, and the general affluence of the inhabitants, concurred to make it the most enchanting retreat, and the most desirable residence. Luxury, pride, and a shameful depravity of manners were, however, sufficient to insure its desolation, and Canopus has accordingly fallen, like many other cities, a sacrifice to the vices of the people. Its splendid monuments are now permitted to moulder in the dust; the Nile no longer fertilizes the depopu-

lated soil, the verdant plains are become arid deserts, the descendants of its original inhabitants are mere barbarians, and the place itself no longer exists but in the memory of individuals or the page of history.

The day after our arrival at Aboukir, our traveller went to pay his respects to the governor, who was a barber, and who, having received intimation of the European's visit, had put on his best apparel, and covered his head with a white shawl. Sonnini found him sitting in his shop with all the gravity of a vizier, and bearing a fan of feathers in his hand: he received his guest with great solemnity; offered him any service that lay in his power; and expressed his regret at being unable to present him with coffee, from the unlucky circumstance of its being locked up. On Sonnini's withdrawing, he preserved the same state that he assumed on his entrance.

The castle of Aboukir is a place of small importance. On the land side it is surrounded by a ditch, and is furnished with a light-house; but this was so badly illuminated, as only to be discerned at a small distance. The fort is defended by a few pieces of small cannon, which are, however, so contemptible, as to permit the Russians to take the germs from the very shelter of the batteries. As most of the male inhabitants are either fishermen or sailors, belonging to the germs, the village of Aboukir seems uninhabited during the day, and scarcely any person is seen in the streets.

One of the villagers, having noticed our author's admiration of a long black stone, covered with hieroglyphics, in the market-place, came up and offered to sell him a fine statue, which was partly buried in the ground. Sonnini, accordingly, sent one of his servants with the stranger, but no statue was to be found. That he might not, however, lose his expected profit, the man began to remove the earth, and soon discovered a beautiful little pyramid, of the finest black marble, encircled with hieroglyphics, and

in high preservation. This curious monument of antiquity was immediately purchased by the European, who employed his Jewish host to transmit it to Rosetta by the first conveyance. "The reader," says our author, "may conceive the riches of this mine of antiquities, covered by a very slight layer of earth and rubbish, when a man, unprovided with any implement, and with his hands alone, could scrape up the soil at hazard, and discover, in less than half an hour, such a valuable treasure!"

Having made this acquisition, and satisfied his curiosity with an examination of Aboukir and its environs, our traveller set out for Rosetta, where he arrived about ten o'clock at night, having observed, upon the beach, a great number of wagtails, and, upon the palm trees, some blackbirds, which together with the thrushes arrive in the northern parts of Egypt at the beginning of the winter. All the day there was a strong wind from the east south-east, the heavens were overspread with clouds, and towards evening there was a shower of rain. The sea was high; and its agitated waves, breaking with violence against the banks of Aboukir, and rolling furiously along the coast, spread a terrific sound through the adjacent deserts, and rendered the passage of the travellers peculiarly solemn.

On his return to Rosetta, Sonnini was anxious to obtain a more perfect view of the Boghass, or mouth of the Nile, so celebrated for shipwrecks and extreme danger; he accordingly set out with the vice-consul, a drogoman, and a French merchant, mounted upon asses. Stopping at the gardens above the castle, they found an encampment of Bedouin Arabs, whose small and uncomfortable tents announced the misery of the inhabitants. The women of these people did not conceal their faces, like the other nations who are settled in Egypt; the youngest of them were rendered tolerably agreeable by the bloom of youth, and they were apparently of an obliging disposition. The

travellers were soon surrounded by these females, who asked charity, and were perfectly satisfied with the distribution of a few medicines. While the merchant and his attendant were carrying on a lively conversation with these young Arabs, our author was encompassed by a group of old women, whose dark and shrivelled faces, rendered still more frightful by means of punctures traced upon their chins, excited horror and disgust. As, however, they probably considered him more generous than his companions, they kept him in the midst of them for a considerable time, till at length, after a thousand fruitless efforts, he escaped from the hideous and importunate circle.

Pursuing his route, towards the sea, his beast, with those of his fellow travellers, frequently stumbled on the slippery ground, which had been recently covered by the Nile, and either sunk with their riders in the mire, or precipitated them into the water of the ditches that intersected the disagreeable road. Each of the companions, it seems, had an equal share in these little accidents, and in the little observations to which they gave rise. At length, however, they approached the narrow and perilous channel that forms the bar at the mouth of the Nile. The sea was breaking over it with surprising violence, and raising boisterous waves mingled with foam and sand. They also discerned the mast heads of two germs that had been lately wrecked; and, upon the beach, some sailors were employed in removing the lifeless bodies of their friends or shipmates, which had been thrown on shore by the agitation of the waters. The coast, which is low, and entirely consisting of sand, was covered with an abundance of water-fowl, as gulls, herons, sea-larks, &c.

Next day our author went to see a tower, at a small distance to the south of Roseita, called the tower of Canopus by the generality of the natives, who erroneously suppose that the town of Rosetta is the site

of the ancient Canopus. This tower is a modern building, though in a ruinous condition: it is situated upon a hillock of sand, which here forms the western bank of the Nile. In the lower part is a subterraneous passage, said, by the inhabitants of the district, to lead to Alexandria. From the top of the tower may be had a general view of the country, which has no other bounds but those of nature. In the east are displayed the rich treasures of verdure and fertility, upon the elegant carpet of the Delta; to the north are distinguished the rolling waves of the ocean; and to the west the parched deserts of Libya confess the dominion of eternal sterility.

At the brink of the Nile, and near the base of the tower, stands a mosque, consecrated to a Mahometan saint, called Abou Mandour, or father of the light. He is considered as a powerful protector, and is therefore held in universal veneration, insomuch that no boat ever passes before the mosque, without the mariners and passengers making an offering to the shech, in order to conciliate the favour of the saint.

Upon the eastern bank of the Nile, opposite to the mosque of Abou Mandour, are two or three houses, denominated Maadié, because their situation faces the usual passage to the Delta. Beyond Maadié is the village Boussourath, formerly inhabited by a great number of robbers, who used to plunder the boats, till they were happily exterminated by the laudable exertions of Mahomet Bey. A little above Boussourath is another village, called Hashbet.

On the western side of the river, at a short distance from the aforesaid mosque, is a considerable village, called Dgeddié, the environs of which are richly clothed with vines. This neighbourhood supplies Rosetta and Alexandria with grapes. The leaves of the vine are likewise an important article in Egypt, as they are frequently used, when young, to envelop large balls of hashed meat that are commonly served

up at the tables of the great, and form the finest dish of Egyptian cookery.

On his return to Rosetta, our traveller was informed that the garrison of the castle at Aboukir had prevented the Jew drogueman from sending the little pyramid, which has been already described to our readers, with the circumstance of its discovery. At length, however, the aga of Rosetta, who was also commandant of Aboukir, was persuaded to permit the monument to be sent; though he alleged that the people with whom Sonnini had bargained had no right to dispose of it, and that it was to him alone a proper application could have been made. He likewise added, that he understood the pyramid was full of gold, and therefore resolved to examine it immediately on its arrival, when, if his suspicions should prove groundless, he would consent to sell it to the European.

Notwithstanding these precautions, the ignorant aga caused the janizary, who had accompanied Sonnini to Aboukir, to be brought before him, in order to learn whether there was really any gold in the monument. This man, who knew that gold was not the object of an European's research in Egypt, endeavoured to undeceive him; but his efforts were all in vain, as the mameluke could not possibly suppose any value would be set on a stone, and asked a number of questions, upon the subject, that were equally senseless and fatiguing.

At length the pyramid was landed at the port of Rosetta, when a crowd of curious spectators assembled, and uttered many exclamations of surprise and admiration on its beauty, as it sparkled in the sun, and was universally supposed to be a precious stone, in the strictest sense of the expression. "They could not," says Sonnini, "refrain from feeling a respect for the Franks, who had the sagacity to discover so admirable a treasure.

As it was natural to suppose that the observations of

so many ignorant admirers would reach the ears of the aga, and confirm him in his erroneous opinion respecting the value of the marble, our author resolved to leave it on the wharf, and to appear to relinquish it entirely. In consequence of this, the aga, who had been fully convinced that it was a mere stone, became surprised at the silence of the supposed purchaser, and sent for the janizary to know the reason why it was not taken away. The latter told the aga, as he had been instructed, that, after the claims he had made upon the monument, Sonnini had dropped all thought of having it; but that he was still willing to purchase it, if the price should not be unreasonable. The janizary returned with an order for its removal to the lodgings of our author, and the result was, that it was finally purchased for a present of small value.

The absurd opinion, that Europeans had no other view in their researches than the discovery of hidden treasures, is universally held by all the Egyptians, and is in fact one of the greatest difficulties that a traveller has to vanquish. A Turk, who resided at Rosetta, had a very beautiful piece of granite, enriched with hieroglyphics, at the door of the storehouse. Sonnini requested the proprietor to sell him the granite, offering at the same time to have another stone placed in its stead, at his own expense; but the Turk, with the usual stupidity of the people, peremptorily rejected the proposal, alleging, as a motive for his refusal, that the granite was full of gold. As the man was indigent, our traveller asked him why, if such was his belief, he did not break the stone to obtain the precious contents, which appeared so necessary to him; when he replied, that his stone was a talisman, and therefore such an action would certainly involve him in guilt, and might probably overwhelm him with misfortunes.

Notwithstanding the assertions of some modern

writers, it is very certain that the plague is not *endemic* in Egypt, nor does it originate in that country. Whenever it makes its appearance, it is either brought from Turkey or the interior of Africa. The latter kind is called the *Said Plague*, and is accordingly dreaded, as being more destructive than that which is brought from other quarters.

As a convincing proof that the Egyptian climate rather opposes than produces this most fatal of contagious, our author observes that, at the period of his travels, it had not been experienced there for upwards of twelve years, notwithstanding the imprudent neglect of the inhabitants with respect to its introduction. Ships frequently touched at Alexandria, in their passage from Constantinople, which may be justly styled the focus of this dreadful malady; caravans from Africa arrived several times in a year at Cairo, and yet no pestilential symptom had appeared. It is even a well known fact that, in 1780, a vessel belonging to the grand signior, had entered the old port of Alexandria with the plague on board. A man who stood near a chest that was opened, was struck with the pestiferous effluvia that issued from it, and fell down dead upon the spot; yet all the Turkish mariners went on shore, walked through different parts of the town, and even mingled with the inhabitants, without exciting the smallest anxiety, or producing any unfortunate effect.

No epidemical diseases, in fact, prevail in Egypt, where foreigners are never attacked by those violent and inflammatory fevers which are so justly dreaded in the West Indian colonies; nor are they tormented by those intermittent fevers, which in those countries, are the certain preludes of numerous obstructions and dropsy. Sonnini acknowledges that he was afflicted, in Upper Egypt, by the ophthalmia in one of his eyes, and that his draughtsman suffered for a considerable time under a cutaneous disorder; but

otherwise they enjoyed a good state of health, and frequently noticed the visible amendment of several Turks, who arrived from Constantinople in a state of sickness, and with the most emaciated appearance.

With respect to the burial of the dead, some traces of the precautions, taken by the ancient Egyptians, are still visible in the practice of the moderns. The curious art of embalming is indeed totally forgotten; but the care with which they arrange the bodies of their deceased relatives is at least the shadow of that ancient and obsolete practice.

Immediately upon the death of an Egyptian, the body is carefully washed, the beard shaved, and every aperture closely stopped with cotton. It is then sprinkled with odoriferous waters, and the perfumes of Arabia are permitted to enter into all the pores. After these attentions of respect and cleanliness, it is placed in a coffin covered with some sort of cloth, the colour of which is optional, and carried with the head foremost to the silent mansions of the tomb, preceded by priests, who recite various passages from the Koran, and female mourners, who are hired to utter the most loud and dismal exclamations of grief. A small, stone pillar, crowned with a turban, is erected at the spot where reposes the head of the deceased; and every Friday the women repair thither, with devout enthusiasm, to renew their mournful adieus.

However great may be their respect for the dead, the orientals would deem themselves inexcusable in injuring the health of the living; and therefore their cemeteries are placed beyond the limits of any habitation. They are large solitary enclosures, admirably adapted for the reception of visitors, who are led thither by motives of fond regret, or pious affection. The bodies are covered with a thick layer of earth, which preserves them from the confusion and derangement that the course of time might otherwise produce;—a precaution equally prudent and delicate.

As there were no places destined for the burial of the French at Rosetta, those who died were conveyed to Alexandria, and there interred in the convent of St. George. These funeral journeys, being conducted by land, were consequently very expensive.

Our author having heard much talk of a race of the Psylli, (who were persuaded that they possessed the power of setting serpents at defiance, of charming them, causing the reptiles to follow them at command, and of curing their bites,) resolved to obtain the best information concerning them, and accordingly found that there now exists a sect, called Saadis, from the name of their founder, a saint highly venerated by the Egyptian Mussulmen. This Saadi had a wealthy uncle in Libya, who sent him occasionally to fetch some wood from the Desert. One day the lad, having cut the faggot, was greatly at a loss for something to tie it, till at length, after a fruitless research, he resolved to knot several serpents together, and accordingly bound up his faggot with this living cord. The uncle, equally surprised and charmed with the boy's acuteness, told him that he was now adequate to the task of making his way in the world, as his knowledge was superior to that of his elders. The ingenious youth immediately took the hint, and began travelling over the country, charming serpents by his supernatural skill, till at length he had a great number of disciples, to whom he communicated his art. His tomb is in the vicinity of Damascus, and is filled with serpents and other venomous animals, among which a person may repose in perfect safety.

Such is the superstitious origin of a numerous sect in Egypt, each individual of which boldly affirms that he inherits the skill of its founder. His festival is annually celebrated in a manner analogous to the institution. The Saadis march in procession through the streets, each holding a living serpent in his hand, which he bites and swallows piecemeal, with the most frightful grimaces and horrid contortions. But as



F. Tadi exhibiting his art in. Tonnon's apartments.

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this singular festival is only celebrated in the summer, our traveller was extremely anxious to examine the behaviour of one of these serpent-eaters; and accordingly, with the assistance of his friend, M. Forneti, he prevailed on one of the sect to indulge him with the exhibition at his own apartments.

On the appointed day the Saadi came, accompanied by his priest, who carried a large serpent in his bosom, which he was continually handling. Sonnini observed that the reptile's teeth had been drawn: however, it was very lively, and of a greenish copper colour.

After having recited a prayer, the priest delivered the creature to the Saadi, who seized it with a muscular hand; but, on its entwining itself round his arm, his countenance changed, his eyes rolled dreadfully, and he uttered the most piercing cries. He then bit the serpent in the head, and tore off a piece, which he instantly chewed and swallowed. At that moment his agitation increased to convulsion, his limbs writhed, his howlings redoubled, and his mouth, distended by the most shocking grimaces, was literally covered with foam, while he occasionally devoured fresh pieces of the animal, with all the marks of confirmed madness. Three men exerted themselves to hold him; but he violently dragged them all round the room, throwing out his arms in every direction, and striking furiously against whatever stood in his reach; insomuch that Sonnini and his friend were frequently obliged to cling to the wall, in order to avoid his blows. After some time the priest took the serpent from him; but he still bit his hands, and continued to rage with the fury of a maniac. The priest, however, at length clasped him in his arms, put his hand gently upon his back, lifted him from the ground, and recited some prayers; when his agitations gradually subsided, and for a few moments he seemed totally exhausted.

“The Turks,” says Sonnini, “who were present,

were fully convinced of the reality of this religious phrensy; and it must be confessed that, whether reality or imposture, it was impossible to express the transports of madness, in a more striking manner, or to exhibit a human being in a more terrific situation." In Egypt, the Saadis are much respected; but among the Turks, who dwell in the other parts of the Ottoman empire, they are merely objects of derision.

Our author had an opportunity of conversing with a shech, or priest, of this sect, who was of an open disposition, and candidly assured him that, though several individuals of his fraternity had an uncommon power over serpents, he had not the smallest claim to it himself, but, on the contrary, acknowledged that he was extremely afraid of these reptiles; he likewise observed, that the Saadis always keep serpents in their houses, to be ready upon any occasion; but they previously take the precaution of drawing their teeth. If any person be bitten by a serpent, the Saadi, to whom he applies, mutters a few words over the wound, scarifies it with a razor, and, having first filled his mouth with lemon juice, sucks the blood from it repeatedly. These men are likewise said to cure "the serpent's breath," an appellation given by the Egyptians to inflammatory pustules, which sometimes break out on persons who sleep uncovered in the open air, and which they suppose are occasioned by the breath of a serpent. The remedy of the Saadis is a mixture of ceruse, or white lead, and oil of sesamum, with which they rub the pustules, at the same time muttering a few unintelligible words, to impress the superstitious patient with veneration for their superior abilities.

Sonnini having been now two months at Rosetta, and finding it impossible to penetrate into Upper Egypt, which was filled with undisciplined combatants and lawless banditti, he resolved to visit that part of the Libyan desert, called the desert of

Nitra, or of St. Macarius; he therefore wrote to Cairo, in order to obtain the protection of Ismael Bey; and as a stronger shield than all the recommendations of authority, he assumed the character of a physician, and adorned himself with a red turban, which, joined to his dress, and that of his companions, who were habited as soldiers of the beys, made him sometimes pass for a kiaschef, or officer of the Mamelukes.

On the 29th of December our author quitted Rosetta, mounted, like his attendants, upon mules, and followed by a camel that carried the baggage in a handsome sort of large covered pannier; he was also accompanied by a janizary, whom the consul desired to attend him to Aboukir.

At the lake of Maadié the travellers found a commodious decked boat; and at the distance of half a league from the opposite shore they met with a small encampment of Bedouins, who offered them some water, and invited them in the most pressing manner to pass the night beneath the shelter of their tents. Sonnini made no hesitation in placing a confidence in them, as previous to his arrival, some European merchants, with their wives, had accepted their offer of nocturnal accommodation, and were perfectly satisfied with their behaviour; he therefore hired some of them to escort the camel, whose slow pace had hitherto retarded his progress, and took the lead with his janizary and mules to the village of Aboukir, where he arrived about eight o'clock in the evening.

When the Jew drogueman, at whose house our author alighted, was informed of the object of the intended journey, he exclaimed loudly against the rashness of the enterprise, represented it as dangerous even to madness, and, when solicited to procure camels for the purpose of traversing the desert, he declared that he would take no share in a business which must inevitably terminate in misfortune.

At length, however, finding that all his persuasions and remonstrances only tended to incense Sonnini, without effecting the least change in his resolutions, he sent for a chief of Bedouin Arabs, who was encamped at a small distance from Aboukir, and who was equally celebrated for his bravery and fidelity. This man arrived about midnight, and readily consented, for a stipulated sum, to furnish our author with a horse and four camels, and to accompany him on the road, without his being obliged to provide food for either the animals or their master. The conditions of this engagement were minuted down by the Jew, and at day-break an Egyptian scribe drew up a formal agreement in Arabic, which was solemnly signed and attested by witnesses, who, together with the Jew, the janizary, and the travellers, were all seated in a circle on the ground, and each stretching out his right hand, offered up a prayer to God and to Mahomet, and then took hold of his beard or chin, after the custom of the country, which thus guaranties the performance of every written or verbal contract.

During these arrangements, the inhabitants of Aboukir, who had raised such difficulties respecting the little pyramid purchased on a former occasion, assembled together, on being informed of Sonnini's return, and loudly demanded restitution for the immense riches of which he had deprived them; at the same time endeavouring to raise their countrymen, by asserting that the European was now hiring camels for the express purpose of despoiling their country of all its hidden valuables. The barber governor was anxious to share the heaps of gold, said to be found, and prepared for removal, and accordingly made his shop re-echo with imprecations against the Franks in general and our author in particular. The riot was now becoming general; the Jew drogue-man trembled with excess of terror; the janizary harangued the populace, in order to undeceive them, and

the travellers themselves were greatly alarmed when Sonnini, notwithstanding his private fears, resolved to treat the uproar with contempt and apparent indifference; and in order to remove every suspicion of his apprehensions, he kept the mules belonging to Rosetta, and set out the same morning to traverse the range of coast between Aboukir and Alexandria.

At a small distance, to the westward of Aboukir, he passed through a small village, called Kasr Dsjami, or castle of the mosque. From hence to Alexandria he met with nothing but some large houses, built singly, and inhabited by cultivators. Their construction is entirely modern, though some ancient pieces of granite have been used among the other materials. Each of these houses is denominated kasr, or castle, to which some peculiar designation is added. They are all enclosed by walls; but these outworks are too slight to resist the attacks of the Bedouins, who frequently make considerable breaches in them, in order to commit their depredations.

After partaking of a light refreshment, beneath the shade of date trees, in the vicinage of Alexandria, our traveller returned towards Aboukir, where he found the people more outrageous than before his departure. Some shameless villains affirmed that they had repeatedly seen the Frank come by night into their neighbourhood, load his beasts with gold, and immediately depart. This was sufficient to inflame the fury of the mob, who accordingly resolved to let the travellers load their riches on the camels that were to be furnished by the Bedouins, and then to attack and murder them in order to recover the stolen treasures.

This project was a source of great uneasiness to Sonnini's companions; but for his own part he betrayed no sign of fear, and was determined not to fall an easy sacrifice, in case the threat should be put in execution. This mode of conduct had the desired effect, as the stupid crowd, which surrounded the camels

at the hour of departure, thought proper to confine their vengeance to a few malicious words, and suffered our author to pursue his journey without molestation.

Having taken leave of the Jew, who still entreated that his advice might be followed, our adventurer directed his route to the south-east, over a sandy, uncultivated plain, where he observed a numerous herd of antelopes, and met with the tomb of a Mahometan saint, which the pious travellers of Egypt enter for the purpose of devotion. Our author went in, with his Bedouin sheich, whose name was Hussein. Here he saw a piece of beautiful white marble, bearing a Greek inscription to the following purport :

* * * * * EUTOLUS,
GOVERNOR OF THE NINETEENTH DEPARTMENT,
IN HONOUR OF EGYPTIAN JUPITER.
THE FOUNDATION OF THIS MONUMENT IS
TEN CUBITS,
ITS PERPENDICULAR ELEVATION IS
FORTY CUBITS,
THE HEIGHT OF ITS SIDES IS A HUNDRED CUBITS,
IN HONOUR OF ALEXANDER,
OF HIS ARMY,
AND OF EGYPTIAN JUPITER.

Half of the first line was effaced, but the remainder was in excellent preservation. No sooner did our author express a wish to have this marble, than Hussein pulled it up from the pavement, and tendered it to him for sale. It was twenty-two inches long, sixteen broad, and about four inches thick. It seems, however, that neither this curiosity, nor the pyramid of Aboukir, was ever carried to France. At five o'clock in the afternoon the travellers arrived at Hussein's camp, having performed a journey of about twenty-one miles in eight hours.

The Bedouins having been apprised of this visit, had driven out the animals from Hussein's tent, and prepared it for Sonnini's reception. A few faggots

covered with carpets, of the women's manufacture, served as seats, and the tent of the chief was distinguished by a large plume of ostrich feathers placed at the top. These temporary dwellings are all of the same shape, and only differ in size; they are all low, of much greater length than breadth, and entirely open on one side; they are constructed of a stuff that is made from camel's hair.

The camp was situated about a hundred yards from the canal of Alexandria, the waters of which, turned off by the industrious Bedouins, diffused fertility through an extensive piece of ground. Various kinds of food were here cultivated for animals and horses; camels, sheep, and oxen, were seen at pasture.

Scarcely an hour had elapsed since our traveller's alighting, when the whole of Hussein's Bedouins were thrown into the 'greatest disorder at the sight of some predatory Arabs, who were discovered in the plain. Every person was instantly in motion, the women shrieked with fear, the men ran to their arms, some mouning the first horse they could find, and others setting out on foot in pursuit of the robbers. In the midst of this confusion our European and his companions remained with the aged men and the women, to guard the camp, and after a short time tranquillity was reestablished. A live sheep designed for the supper of the travellers was then brought to Soncini; but when it was perceived that he was desirous of sparing the animal's life, the women presented him with some delicious milk, and a variety of little cakes, that were both crisp and good.

It is indeed among these societies of the Desert, that the traveller meets with that frank cordiality which instantaneously converts a guest into a brother, where simple and natural offers are made of articles equally simple, a refusal of which would give real pain to the person who makes them: whereas, by a cheerful acceptance of them, a stranger infallibly inspires esteem, and is in no danger of being deemed either intrusive or troublesome. Luxury and factitious plea-

tures, with their constant attendant, immorality, have made no attempt to fix their abode on these arid sands, neither is jealousy here the tyrant of the softer sex. The manners of the people are preserved pure and simple, as described in their ancient histories. Unlike the other nations of Egypt, the Bedouin women are not afraid to discover their faces, or to converse with that natural and pleasing gaiety, which is the companion of virtue, and the enemy of remorse. The men are in general very handsome; a simple mode of life, uninjured by excess, permits them to enjoy their existence, and frequently to attain longevity. At an advanced age they are remarkable for a venerable and patriarchal physiognomy; yet there is a part of this nation, whose natural state seems in a manner perverted, by the hardships attendant upon a toilsome and wandering life. These, ever miserable, wandering, and predatory, are generally of a slender make and uncouth appearance, nor is it easy to discover among them any traces of the beauty of their original race.

After presenting some trifles to the hospitable Arabs, Sonnini and his companions resumed their journey on the 1st of January, 1778, and proceeded in a south-easterly direction along the canal of Alexandria. Exclusive of the village Karioum, that stands at the distance of three miles from the camp, and a few small spots of cultivation, the whole tract of country was an entire plain of sand. The opposite bank of the canal presented a more cheerful prospect, being pleasantly enlivened by a number of villages.

At the village Bersik, our author met with an encampment of Bedouins, who surrounded him with all the gestures of astonishment, stared at him, and felt his skin, as if he had been some uncommon animal. The women were equally anxious with the men, to gratify their curiosity, but they accompanied it with a present of excellent milk.

Beyond Bersik, the arid plains of sand were suc-

ceeded by fertile fields where our author perceived a prodigious quantity of larks flying in large flocks. About noon he arrived at three villages adjoining each other, which bear collectively the denomination of Sentaw. Here he presented a letter from Ismael Bey to the Shech el Belad, or chief of the country, who recognised the seal, though he was unable to read the contents. A dinner was provided for the travellers; but Sonnini affirms, that it was disgusting in itself, and rendered still worse by the filthy manner in which the peasants and Bedouins fell upon the dishes.

At two o'clock, he continued his route across beautiful and extensive plains richly embellished with a profusion of beans, which being in blossom diffused a sweet and reviving fragrance through the air. Some hillocks formed a charming contrast with the uniform brilliancy of these beds of flowers, and the ruins of several deserted habitations served to complete the picturesque scene. Towards evening the travellers reached the village of Guebil, seated on the western bank of the canal, and, like all the others in that country, built of mud. Sonnini was told that the mosque contained a very fine figure: he accordingly requested permission to examine it, and was not a little disappointed, to find nothing more than the half of a lion's head enclosed in the wall of the temple.

Next day he crossed the canal of Alexandria, then destitute of water, and arrived about ten o'clock in the morning at Damanhour, having travelled over a pleasant road, that intersected several fields of beans and trefoil. This extent of cultivated land constitutes a part of the province Bahira, of which Damanhour is the capital.

The city of Damanhour is tolerably spacious, but very indifferently built, as most of the houses are constructed of earth, or bad brick. It is the residence of the bey or governor of Bahira, and of a kias-

chef, or particular commandant; but what is more important, it is the centre of trade, for the cotton that is gathered in the circumjacent plains. In picking this useful article from the bushes, beating, carding, and spinning it, consists the chief employment of the inhabitants. The only piece of antiquity discovered at Damanhour was a small bronze idol, pierced with holes, probably in order to be worn as an amulet; it was two inches three lines in length.

On the morning of the 4th, our traveller proceeded on his journey towards the Desert. At a small distance, to the south-east of the city, stands a small village, from whence he directed his route to the southward, till he reached the village Graguess. From Graguess he travelled south south-east to Dentschell, a village whose name implies "a jar carried off." The villagers pretend that their ancestors having once found a large vase, on this spot, filled with gold, deferred the division of the treasure till the following day; but when they returned, they found, to their equal surprise and vexation, that both gold and jar were removed beyond their reach. To this anecdote, whether true or fabulous, the peasants affirm that the village owes its name. Immediately adjoining Dentschell is another village, called Lavoischi, or "across," on account of its transversal situation in respect to Dentschell; and on the other side of the road are the ruins of a large village, constructed of mud, and built upon an eminence.

The travellers now continued their route to Schambrenoum, and from thence to Nagrasch, where they passed the night. At their arrival the villagers hastily retired to their houses, and shut their doors, under the erroneous opinion, that they were either the kiaschef's people, or predatory Bedouins. At length, however, our author and his attendants obtained a shelter at the house of the Sheeh el Belad; but as the inhabitants were in constant fear of an attack from some other villages, with whom they were

at war, all idea of repose was precluded, and scarcely an hour passed without false alarms, from the terror and timidity of the women.

Next day, Sonnini and his followers proceeded to Ramsés, situated upon the bank of a large canal. At some distance from this place he discerned about two hundred persons, some on foot and some on horseback; they were immediately supposed to be Bedouin robbers, and the little party began to make the best preparation for a vigorous resistance; but on their near approach they found that the object of their alarm was a funeral procession.

Continuing their route through Kadouss and Abou-amer, they soon arrived at the town of Biban, which is the residence of a kiaschef. Every Monday there is held at this place a considerable market for cattle. The travellers happened to arrive upon market-day, and consequently found it difficult to obtain a passage, on account of the great concourse of men and beasts. In about a quarter of an hour the travellers entered Herbeté, and soon after reached two villages, which together were known by the appellation of Honéze. About three miles to the eastward of Honéze is the small town of Suffrané.

The districts through which the journey had hitherto been conducted, were chiefly favoured by nature, and presented the most interesting and magnificent spectacle to the contemplative admirer; but our European had now reached the borders of the Desert, and found that the village Honéze formed a boundary between the most brilliant vegetation, richly fertilized by the waters of the Nile, and the most complete aridity, vainly moistened by the copious dews of heaven.

On the 6th of January our author entered upon the immense desert of Libya, the abode of eternal sterility and burning drought; where no road nor path of any kind can serve to guide the weary traveller's steps; where tracks which hardly leave an

impression are immediately effaced, and men are frequently swallowed up in waves of sand raised by the impetuous winds. The Arabic name of these sterile regions, which consist entirely of sand and stone, without a single particle of vegetable earth, is Dsjebel, or mountain. The ground, in fact, rises by an easy ascent, which forms at first acclivities, then hills, and finally mountains.

The travellers ascended imperceptibly, for about six miles, a thick bed of fine moving sand. They then entered plains covered with small stones; and in proportion as they approached the more elevated lands, the fine sand disappeared, till at length it was lost on the summit of the hills, where the stratum became solid, interspersed with coloured pebbles, a species of jasper that takes the most beautiful polish, and pieces of petrified wood. There are likewise some small spots, full of vitrifiable stones, of a reddish gray colour, and strongly fixed in the ground. These substances, however, are but appendages to a scene of horror and aridity, as on these dreary and rugged spaces no plant relieves the aching eye, no tree spreads forth its hospitable branches to shelter the feverish and exhausted traveller from the insupportable beams of the noon-day sun. It is only in the chasms between the hills and in the less elevated situations, that a few slender and hardy plants creep along the thirsty ground, and a few shrubs, producing as many thorns as leaves, may be merely said to vegetate. In the less ungrateful spots, these shrubs sometimes grow in patches, and form dismal warrens, where hares make their forms, and antelopes find a covert and a scanty supply of pasture.

After travelling all day towards the south-west, our author halted at six in the evening, and passed the night upon the sand. He suffered greatly from the cold, and after midnight was as completely wetted by a copious dew as if he had been exposed to a heavy rain.

Early in the morning he continued his journey, till, having travelled about forty miles from Honéze, he arrived at the summit of a chain of hills extending to the north north-west. At the distance of ten or twelve miles is another chain, parallel to the first; they form between them a deep vailey, the sides of which are perpendicular from the top of the hills to more than half of their height; the other part is a gentle descent of fine loose sand. At the foot of one of the hills, in the bottom of the valley, are the lakes of natron, where an extensive sheet of water, a number of shrubs that overshadow its banks, a profusion of reeds and other aquatic plants, that clothe its surface, and an elegant assemblage of birds and antelopes, which come thither to quench their thirst, constitute a scene sufficiently agreeable to interest the traveller, whose patience and spirits have been nearly exhausted by the hideous monotony of the desert.

It is impossible to ascertain with any degree of precision the extent of these lakes, as it varies materially, according to the seasons; when there is most water, the two lakes are united, and form one, which is much longer than broad, and occupies a space of several leagues. At other times they are only ponds, that occupy but a small space of ground. When the two lakes separate, and their waters retire, the ground, lately inundated, is covered with a sediment that is soon hardened and crystallized by the sun; this is the natron. Some writers have described the water as being covered with this substance, but at the time of Sonnini's researches they were clear and limpid. The natron is disengaged from the ground by iron instruments, and carried by camels to Terane, where it is shipped for Cairo, or Rosetta.

Upon the declivity of the hill, near the lakes, stands a small house, in which the Copts say there was born a saint, whom they highly venerate under the name of Maximous. Probably the Maximus, or Maximinius, of the Catholic legend.

Having spent some time in traversing the banks of the lakes, our author continued his route over a fatiguing tract of sand, that was entirely covered with hardened natron, till he arrived within sight of a Coptic convent, whose appearance was the most horrible and forbidding of any edifice he had ever yet discovered. Its walls, though very high, can scarcely be distinguished from the sands of the Desert at any distance, as they have the same colour and aspect. Not a single tree or shrub is planted in its vicinity, nor is there any road that leads to it, or any apparent entrance ; even the footsteps of men are soon covered by the moving sand, or effaced by the feet of wild and sanguinary animals.

When the travellers had approached within five hundred yards of the monastery, Hussein went on before, in order to obtain admittance, while Sonnini rode slowly forward at some distance, and the rest of the party had lagged a considerable way behind. At this moment a troop of Bedouin horsemen rushed out from behind the walls, when Sonnini, who discerned the number and quality of his enemies, turned back, and rejoined his companions, who had also discovered their danger, and were drawn up in a close body, fully resolved to make a vigorous defence. Our author immediately dismounted, and exerted himself to encourage their laudable intention ; but his whole party consisted only of six persons, and three of those were such as could not possibly be depended on. The robbers rode up to them at full gallop ; but perceiving their firmness, they halted at the distance of a hundred yards, and desired them not to fire. Sonnini in return commanded them to keep their distance, and for some moments they remained in apparent uncertainty how to act. At length, however, they divided themselves into four bodies, three of which immediately stationed themselves on the flanks and in the rear of the travellers. This unexpected manœuvre disconcerted the courageous few, who, in

spite of all their leader's exhortations, refused to defend themselves, or to discharge a single shot. Sonnini threw down his gun in vexation, and the banditti stripped both him and his followers of their money, clothes, arms, provisions, and, in fact, of the whole of their property. Our author, indeed, was permitted to retain his breeches and under-waistcoat, but his followers were stripped to their shirts; and he was himself cruelly deprived of his turban, by which means his bare head was exposed to the insufferable heat of the sun. About twenty more Arabs then advanced from behind a heap of stones, and, with many altercations, began to divide the spoil.

"This scene," says Sonnini, "would have furnished a striking subject for a skilful painter, who might have represented, on one side, the troop of robbers covered with dust, and with black countenances, as parched as the sands, quarrelling about the division of the property; in the midst of these, my old servant making occasional snatches at some of the most valuable articles; in the fore-ground, the soldier perfectly confounded and motionless; the two Egyptians, gazing at each other with stupid astonishment; myself in the back-ground, biting my nails with choler and vexation; and lastly, the draughtsman, weeping aloud, and answering with sobs, when I asked if he had been ill-used, 'No, sir; but what can we now get to eat?'"

Sonnini was now advancing towards the convent, whither Hussein had repaired, but was immediately arrested by the chief of the robbers, who, without assigning any reason, conducted him back into the midst of his troop. Our author naturally supposed that the banditti had either resolved to take from him his remaining clothes, or otherwise to seal up the dread of discovery by his death; but to his utter astonishment, the chief, who had been rather too officious in stripping, now returned the different parts

of his dress, with much civility, together with his purse and arms, while other Bedouins rendered the same acceptable service to the other forlorn and terrified travellers.

This, it seems, was effected by the spirited behaviour of Hussein, who, having reached the spot where most of the predatory band were assembled, thus addressed himself to their chiefs:—"Arabs, you have stripped a man intrusted to my protection; a man with whom I have eaten, who has reposed in my tent, and become my brother, for whose safety I will readily stake my own life. Never again can I revisit my camp, or hope for the pleasure of embracing my beloved family. Arabs, either restore every article that you have taken from my brother, or kindly terminate my insupportable existence." This energetic harangue, delivered in a resolute tone and with the most determined look, made some impression on the barbarians; and while they were consulting together, Hussein snatched his gun from a person who held it, and levelling it at the principal chief, resolved to shoot him, in case of a refusal, that he might thereby draw their vengeance upon his own head rather than live under the stigma of his friend's misfortune. He was well known to the Arabs, who were fully convinced that he would execute his threats, and therefore, partly from fear and partly from respect, they consented to restore the property of Sonnini and his companions; and this was immediately performed with the most admirable fidelity. Nor was it enough for these robbers to appear just, they must also show themselves polite. The black chief insisted upon our author's mounting his horse, to ride from the scene of recent confusion to the monastery, while some other Bedouins paid a similar compliment to his fellow-travellers. On their approaching the convent, some baskets of bread and platters of lentils were let down by a rope, which furnished the whole party with a timely and accep-

table-repast. At the conclusion of their meal, some of the Arabs approached the European with a degree of frankness and cordiality, expressing their satisfaction at his personal safety, and chiding him for undertaking to traverse a desert which they acknowledged to be the resort of thieves and banditti.

Lastly, that nothing might be wanting to complete the succession of these extraordinary scenes, the Bedouin chief desired that Sonnini would write him a certificate, stating that he had met with him in the Desert, and that he had taken nothing from him, but, on the contrary, had behaved in the most satisfactory manner. This certificate was written in Arabic, and signed by our traveller, who, having no desire to attest his name to the conduct of a banditti, subscribed *La Deroute*. The chief then pocketed the paper, and, after cautioning the European to be on his guard, resumed his journey in quest of new adventures.

Having got rid of these dangerous people, Sonnini was obliged to enter into a long altercation with the monks, who for some time pretended to doubt his being an European. At length, however, they consented to his admittance, when another dispute arose concerning the manner of his entering their inhospitable residence, as the monks insisted upon drawing him up by the rope, and he demanded entrance by an iron wicket, which, it seems, was never opened but on particular occasions. Hussein now threatened the fathers with the most dreadful effects of his resentment, if they hesitated any longer to comply with his friend's request; and in consequence of his authoritative commands the wicket was opened to the travellers, who were first conducted to the chapel, and afterwards furnished with a scanty supper of plain boiled rice.

Next morning, Sonnini was reminded by his guide of what passed on the preceding evening, and of the extreme difficulty with which he had been ex-

tricated from his perilous situation. Hussein candidly acknowledged that he could not hope for such success on another occasion, not could he yet tell what might be the result of his recent interference, as, in case he should ever be discovered by the Arabs in company with the same party, his life would most probably be sacrificed to their resentment. He therefore observed that an immediate return was indispensably necessary to himself, and concluded by an offer of conducting our author back by the same route he had come; but as Sonnini had now reached the middle of the deserts, he was unwilling to quit them without making a few observations; and Hussein, though evidently vexed at his determination, embraced him with affection, and quitted him with many kind adieus.

The convent in which Sonnini was now left with his companions, is by the Coptic cenobites denominated Zaidi el Baramous; and by the Arabs, Kasr Zaidi. It is an enclosure of high walls without any gate, as that name cannot possibly be given to a small wicket, which is never opened more than twice or thrice in a year. Persons coming in and going out are drawn up, or lowered down, by a strong rope and pulley. The building consists entirely of soft calcareous stones, containing fossil shells. Within the walls is a small fort, surrounded by ditches, and furnished with a draw-bridge, which yields a retreat to the monks when the banditti of the deserts succeed in forcing the exterior inclosure. In the fort is a church, a cistern, a quantity of provisions, and every thing, in fact, to enable the fathers to sustain a long siege. Here, also, are the books belonging to the community, of which they are extremely tenacious, though they suffer them to lie neglected on the ground, covered with dust, and partly destroyed by vermin.

The church is a simple edifice, with no other ornament than a few bad pictures and some ostrich

eggs. The service is performed in Arabic and modern Coptic, that is to say, in Greek Coptic, for the literal Coptic, or the language of the Pharaohs, is totally unknown to the present Copts. The Gospel is read in Arabic, and the prayers are said in modern Coptic; yet none of the monks can speak that language with propriety. It seems, indeed, almost impossible to give a just representation of the confusion that frequently prevails in the course of their devotions. Sometimes one person will have a particular psalm or anthem, and another will insist upon singing a different one; a dispute then ensues, and is frequently followed by blows: in the mean time, somebody begins to chant a prayer, which is followed by the whole choir*, and thus the quarrel is terminated. During his stay at the convent, Sonnini regularly attended their devotions, and carefully imitated the ceremonies and gestures of the monks. Each of his people did the same, and there sometimes occurred such comic scenes and ridiculous situations, as totally destroyed their gravity, and obliged them to give an involuntary offence, by their laughter, to the members of the community. In the performance of their worship, the Copts neither sit, kneel, nor stand upright; but remain upon their feet, with their bodies bent forward, and support themselves on a kind of crutch. The priest celebrates mass with water, and consecrates common bread, which he cuts in pieces, and mixes with water. This makes a kind of soup, of which he eats a few spoonfuls, and then administers the remainder to such of his brethren or attendants as are present. The sacred vases are only a kind of glass plates, similar to those used at an European dessert. After

* The singing consists of Turkish and Arabic airs, accompanied by cymbals; the noise of which, together with their discordant music, makes the church re-echo with a medley of jarring sounds.

the communion, the officiating priest washes his hands, and places himself at the door of the chancel, whither every person of the congregation walks in procession, to present his face to be stroked or sprinkled with the holy water. Some little half-baked loaves are then distributed, though not without much altercation, and the service concludes. The person who officiates at the altar in celebrating mass is arrayed in a sort of white shirt, covered with crosses and made with a cowl; but during the other prayers he only wears a large fillet of white linen, twisted round his head, in manner of a turban, and adorned with similar little crosses.

“These Copts,” says our author, “are fond of a rapid succession of rites and ceremonies, and are continually in motion during the time of service. The officiating monk, especially, is every moment employed in scattering incense over the saints, books, and pictures, kissing his left hand, or applying his hand to the forehead of every person present. When all his rounds are finished, he gives his benediction, bearing in his hand a small cross and lighted taper, and each individual of the congregation, previous to his departure from the church, kisses a little cushion, covered with a greasy cloth; then a cross; and afterwards rolls his head on the shrine of the saints. This shrine is said by the Arabs to contain no other relics than bones of camels or asses that have perished in the Desert, and have been collected by the monks; but the latter affirm that it is the repository of the bodies of seven saints, among whom, Maximous and Domadious are mentioned as the objects of peculiar veneration.

There were but three priests and a few friars in the convent at the period of our traveller's researches; but they were frequently visited by the Coptic cultivators, who came to do penance for their sins and to supply the fathers with the means of subsistence. The common provisions of the community are

chiefly the alms of the rich Copts, at Cairo, and are conveyed to the monastery, twice or thrice a year, by caravans of camels. Their meals, which simply consist of biscuit made of flour of lentils and rice boiled in salt and water, detestable cheese, and by chance a little honey, are usually eaten in a refectory, while one of the monastics reads for the edification of his brethren; their only beverage is a brackish and unpalatable water.

The cells of the monks are vaulted and exceedingly low, and their dress perfectly accords with their wretched habitations. A kind of robe and a long shirt, of black linen, constitute the whole of their apparel, the dismal colour of which, together with their dark complexion, mean look, and short stature, combines to render the Coptic monastics the most ugly of mankind, as they are likewise the most filthy and disgusting.

By the side of the convent are some ruins, said to be the remains of the ancient edifice. A very deep well is still discernible, to which there is a descent by a flight of steps. In the vicinity there is also found a quantity of the common gypsum, known to the Arabs by the name of guips, and of laminated gypsum, or lapis specularis.

The monastery of Zaidi el Baramous is not the only one existing in this desolate country. From the top of the walls may be seen the small uninhabited house of St. Maximous; another convent, called Zaidi Sourian; and a small deserted building, originally designed for the residence of a kiaschef, but now affording shelter to the persons who come thither in quest of natron.

At the distance of one day's journey, to the west, is a dry canal, formerly the bed of a communication between the lakes Mœris and Marcotis. It abounds with rocks, and eritæ, or eagle stones, are commonly found in its environs.

On the 13th of January, our author having dispatched a peasant from the convent to hire some Bedouins at Terané, who might conduct him out of the Desert, ten of these persons arrived with a camel and some asses. One of them, who had shot a flamingo at the natron lakes, presented it to Sonnini, who having passed several days in a state of rigorous abstinence, gave it to his companions to roast. At the moment, however, when they were preparing to make an excellent meal, the monks fell upon it with the most disgusting voracity, and speedily ended the repast.

Anxious to quit these disagreeable men, our author now proposed to make them some compensation for the entertainment he had received, though wretched in the extreme. The superior told him that it was proper he should first bestow something on the monastery; next on the embellishment of the church; and lastly on himself and the poor. At the conclusion of his enumeration of wants, Sonnini asked what sum would be equivalent to the whole expense; when, after a few moments spent in calculation, the monk replied, that five or six hundred sequins would be sufficient. "A trifle to be sure," says our author, "for five days' lodging and board, on lentil bread, with lentils boiled in salt and water." As, however, our traveller's purse had been considerably lightened in passing through the hands of the Arabs, and as the stipulated agreement with Hussein had taken several sequins, he had but six remaining, which he accordingly offered to the superior; but the avaricious wretch fell into a most violent passion; launched out into invectives, and swore by all the saints of his church, that Sonnini should soon repent his ingratitude. He even ventured to affirm, that *heaven* would soon send some robbers to the convent, who should instantly follow the traveller's route, and avenge the quarrel. At this audacious behaviour, our author lost all patience, and would certainly

have levelled the monastic with the ground, had not the Bedouin guides interposed and separated the contending parties.

Sonnini was now preparing to quit the convent with his companions, when the old monk sent to request the six sequins that had been offered ; and as the travellers rode from the edifice, they discerned this villain in the act of imploring blessings on their journey, from that sacred abode which he had so recently invoked to crush them with all its maledictions.

From Zaidi el Baramous our author travelled along deep gorges, parallel to the great hills, for about six miles, when he entered the monastery of Zaidi Sourian, whose name indicates that it was formerly in the possession of Syrian monks, who have been succeeded by the Copts. This convent is built upon a similar plan to that of Zaidi el Baramous, but it is laid out in a much better and more convenient manner. The ancient Syrian church is still standing, and is described by our traveller as being tolerably handsome. Upon one of the pillars are cut the names of several European visitors ; and the church is embellished with sculpture and paintings in fresco. This building, however, is not used by the Copts, who have built another church in the form of a cross. The little fort, or place of retreat, is as well constructed as that of the other convent, and the monks are apparently less filthy in their persons and less ferocious in their dispositions. The superior, seen by Sonnini, was a man turned of thirty, absolutely without any beard. As the beard is an appendage, in this country, that creates respect, the monk was much dissatisfied with his personal defect, and earnestly entreated the European to point out some method by which he might obtain such an embellishment to his face.

In a little garden belonging to the monastics are a few date-trees, some small olive-trees, and one almond-tree. Among a variety of esculent plants is

observable the liblah, a species of large perennial kidney-bean, that grows very high. Its leaves are of a lively green; its pods, broad and elongated, are of the same colour, with a border of deep purple. The seeds which they contain are oval, and variegated with yellow, black, and brown. This species of pulse is universally cultivated in Egypt, and the pods are a common article of food. An immense tamarind tree grows in one of the courts, and is considered by the monastics as an effect of miraculous vegetation. "A St. Ephraim," say they, "left his staff at the gate of a pious brother, to whom he was paying a visit; it instantly took root, shot forth branches, and soon became a large tamarind tree." To add to this miracle, they affirm that it is the only tree of the species in Egypt. This, however, is not consistent with truth; for, notwithstanding the scarceness of tamarind trees in that country, there are a few plants of it to be seen in the gardens of Rosetta, and the pods, stones, and pulp of the tamarind, boiled up with sugar, may be purchased in every Egyptian market. This coarse sweetmeat is brought by the caravans from the interior of Africa, and forms an indispensable article of provision, for persons who traverse the deserts; they eat it on account of its cooling quality, and to allay the insufferable thirst that is excited by those fiery regions. The few trees that shade one part of the convent invite thither some birds, which diffuse a degree of cheerfulness; and the water of the well is highly superior, both in taste and quality, to that of the monastery of Zaidi el Baramous.

Quitting Zaidi Sourian, on the 14th, at three o'clock in the morning, our author determined not to visit any other convent, though there were two more in the Desert, and accordingly pursued his journey till the next morning, when he reached the village Etriss on the western bank of the Nile. The camp of the Bedouin guides was pitched in the vicinity of

this place, and here the travellers were entertained with equal cordiality and hospitality.

At their first meeting in the Desert, Sonnini had acknowledged to the shech, or leader of the Bedouins, that he should be unable to pay for the hire of the beasts and the escort, until his return to Cairo. The shech replied, that, far from being uneasy about the reward, he had money at our traveller's service; and when the repast was finished he took from a chest, which stood in the tent, a bag of money, and presented it to the amazed European, with the following words: "I am not ignorant of your misfortunes. With indignation I witnessed the behaviour of the monastic at Zaidi el Baramous, and I likewise know that you will receive every needful assistance from the kiaschef of Ouardan, in consequence of your letters of recommendation; but you would grieve me severely, if you should apply to a dog of a Turk, to a Mameluke. I could not possibly bear, that a man, with whom I have eaten in friendship, whom I have protected at the hazard of my life, and who is, in fact, become my brother, should have recourse to another. Take, therefore, this money, or otherwise I shall imagine that you despise a friend because he is an inhabitant of the Desert." In compliance with this frank and cordial offer, Sonnini accepted of some patackes, for which his Bedouin friend would neither reckon, nor admit the idea of reimbursement at any future period.

Our author now proceeded to Ouardan, which is the residence of the commandant of the district, and was politely received by the Mameluke officer, who insisted upon his accepting of accommodations in his own house.

Ouardan is a spacious village, at a small distance from the western bank of the Nile, and built upon the site of Latopolis, a city anciently dedicated to Latona, and which gave name to one of the nomes or divisions of Egypt. In more recent times it be-

came a formidable resort of picaroons, who committed their depredations on all the boats navigating in these branches of the Nile, till they were all destroyed by the vigilant exertions of Ali Bey.

On the 16th, our traveller having hired a boat to carry him to Cairo, and from thence to return to Rosetta, quitted Ouardan at five o'clock in the afternoon; but a contrary wind detained him till about one o'clock the next morning, when he continued his route. In the forenoon he saw several villagers quitting their dwellings, and crossing over to the eastern bank of the Nile, with their cattle and effects, in order to escape a party of predatory Bedouins, who had been discovered in their vicinage, on the preceding evening. The village, though situated on the bank of the river, was almost in the Desert. Towards Cairo, the space of cultivated country, on the west of the Nile, gradually diminishes, so that, on approaching the Egyptian capital, the traveller finds the western bank to be little better than a tract of barren sand.

As the master of the boat was fearful to enter the port of Cairo, lest his little vessel should be seized for the service of the forces which Ismael Bey was then collecting against his competitors, Murad and Ibrahim, he stopped half a league short of Boulac, on the border of a village called Schoura. Sonnini dispatched one of his attendants by land to Cairo, and as soon as he returned they proceeded down the river.

Having kept watch with the half of his party till about midnight, a measure of vigilance regularly pursued in all his travels, our author lay down in the bottom of the boat, and resigned his post to the other half of his companions. Scarcely, however, had he composed himself to obtain a little repose, when he was roused by the master, who informed him that three small piratical vessels were rowing towards him, and that it was indispensably necessary to fire upon them before they commenced their attack. Several

discharges of musquetry followed this intimation, and the robbers made off as fast as possible.

On the 18th the travellers passed between Ouardan and the little village of Guéréiss, below which stands another called Geziret Ouardan. At this place the Nile runs north-west by north, as far as Etriss. Here were seen several flocks of quails, ducks, and a flamingo, which the Arabs call bésarouss; there were likewise on both sides of the river a number of spur-winged plovers.

Passing Geziret Ouardan, our author saw a funeral. Two flags, the one red and the other black, were carried before the procession, a custom which is not adopted in the towns. A little lower, near the village of Mengsi, he obtained a view of a less melancholy scene: it was a wedding. The bride was seated upon a tall camel, and surrounded by a crowd of villagers, who entertained her with a sham fight, while the country re-echoed with the sound of drums and hautboys. The camel walked very slowly, and was frequently stopped, to give the attendants an opportunity of dancing, fighting, and shouting around the bride, whom they conducted in this manner, for half a day, through the village and its environs.

At a quarter of a league below Mengsi is the village of Moresi, and immediately opposite is Etriss, where Sonnini arrived at about ten o'clock in the morning. He directly hastened to the camp of his generous Bedouin, who seemed much astonished at his expedition, and forced him to partake of a frugal repast. Sonnini then repaid him what he was in his debt, adding to it a few yards of cloth; but the worthy Arab resolved to be equal in generosity with his guest, and accordingly contrived to convey a sheep and several articles of provision to the boat. Our traveller may, indeed, with justice observe that, "under the rude tent of the Bedouin, on the barren land, which constitutes his floor, must be looked for

simple manners, generous habits, and all the virtues of hospitality."

Quitting Etriss at four o'clock in the afternoon, the travellers reached the village of Abouneschabé, and opposite to it, on the eastern bank, Thahoué. Between these villages the Nile is exceedingly broad, but so shallow that the boat, though quite empty, touched; and remained a long time aground. Proceeding from hence for about half a league, our author arrived in the evening at a large village, called Jagnouss, where he tasted, for the first time, a small fruit denominated the nebka. The tree that bears it is a large species of rhamnus, the bark of which is similar to that of the willow. Its leaves are alternate, obtuse, three-nerved, and of a deep green; the fruit resembles a small apple, and has rather the flavour of that fruit; its kernel is round and covered with tubercles.

Opposite to Jagnouss, the Nile was almost covered with ducks, and flocks of deserter pigeons, the latter of which alighted every moment upon the water, even in the most rapid part of the stream, and sometimes remained there longer than a minute. This curious habit, which greatly excited our author's astonishment, may be probably attributed to the heat of the climate, as it seems to be common in that country to all pigeons of the same species.

On the morning of the 20th the travellers continued their voyage to Rosetta, after the dispersion of a thick fog; but no sooner was this weather cleared up, than a stiff gale came on from the north, and raised such a swell in the river as prevented the boat from dropping down with the stream. Below Jagnouss, the river takes a north by west direction. At the distance of half a league, on the western bank, is a place called Ikmas, and half a league lower down stands Terané, where our adventurer stopped.

Terané is a spacious, well-built town, and well

enclosed. It is the residence of a kiaschef; and in its environs are some ruins, the vestiges of the ancient city of Terenuthis, known to the natives by the appellation of Aboubellou. The townsmen are extremely savage and vindictive, and at the time of Sonnini's visit they were rendered peculiarly dangerous by the absence of the kiaschef, who was gone to join the army. These people had heard of our author's travelling in the Desert, and supposed that his kanja was laden with the precious fruit of his researches; some of them seemed disposed to seize it in the night; but a strict watch was kept by the European, and the hours of darkness passed without any disagreeable occurrence. Among the inhabitants of Terané was a young Turk who had lost his voice, and suffered a complete change in the colour of his beard, through a sudden and violent fear. Ali Bey, knowing him to be an excellent manufacturer of gunpowder, suspected that he had furnished the Bedouins with that important article, and accordingly issued out orders for his decapitation. The sentence was indeed immediately revoked, but it left behind these indelible impressions on the supposed offender.

On the 22d, at three o'clock in the morning, the travellers again proceeded down the river, and at six arrived at Bour-Edgiatt, where are some remains of antiquity. Dimitschi is half a league distant from Bour-Edgiatt, and opposite to it, on the eastern bank, is Tamalé, where the fertilizing waters of the Nile are conducted by a canal towards the south. On the same bank, and at a small distance, is Schébschir; below it, at an equal distance, is Kafr Nadir, and a quarter of a league further stands Nadir, where a more considerable canal than that of Tamalé takes a north-east direction. The same gales which had retarded the voyage on the preceding day, still continued to impede the navigation, and to render the passage exceedingly rough.

From Nadir the river flows in a north-west direc-

tion as far as Alguan, a small village of a most wretched appearance, where the only commodious dwellings that are erected are appropriated to the use of pigeons. The dwellings of the inhabitants are miserable mud hovels; but the pigeon-houses are commodious, being built of mud, square at the base, and carried up in the form of a cone. The interior of them is furnished with earthen pots, in which the pigeons make their nests and hatch their young.

The commanding officer of this place, who was a negro Mameluke, informed Sonnini that some medals had been recently discovered, in a large vase, among some ruins in the neighbourhood; but that the distribution of the treasure produced a sanguinary contest among the peasants, which continued for three days.

Following the course of the Nile from Alguan, our author now proceeded by the villages of Kafr, Dem-schi, Denasor, Etrie, and Mischlami, to a place called Komscherick, where he landed, and received much satisfaction from the conduct of the Mameluke officer in command. Here he found a few medals, which, though of small value, were sufficient to announce that this had been the site of an ancient settlement.

Having, as we have already noticed, assumed the character of a physician, in order to procure some advantages in the course of his journey, Sonnini was requested to remain one day at Komscherick, in order to attend an opulent Arab in the district, who was extremely ill. This unfortunate man had lost the chief part of his mouth and lower jaw, by a dreadful cancer, and was altogether so horrid a spectacle, that our author, unable to bear the sight, leaped hastily into the boat, and ordered it to be cast off from the shore immediately.

From Komscherick the travellers continued their voyage down the Nile, which now took a north-east by north direction. At the distance of half a league

they reached Amrouiss on the eastern bank, and soon after came to Tonnoub, from whence they proceeded to a considerable village, called Schabour, which is but badly built, and consists entirely of mud-walled houses. The residence of the commanding officer is erected on a platform of earth, and notwithstanding the coarseness of its materials, it is of tolerable construction, as is likewise the turret of the mosque.

Early on the morning of the 26th, our author quitted Schabour, and about four in the afternoon arrived at Schlimé, which he describes as a wretched hamlet containing only a few mud hovels; yet it is a place of some trade, and considerable quantities of sugar-canes, grain, and other commodities are exported from it. Near the village of Bahrim, on the opposite bank, are three large eminences, which are evidently artificial, and consequently indicate the site of some ancient city.

Quitting Schlimé on the 27th, our author continued his route to Mehallet-Abou-Ali in the Delta. For some time he had seen nothing but assemblages of mud huts; but here he again met with a town built of brick, and defended from occasional inundations by a dike constructed of the same materials. In one of the streets he met with a funeral. By the side of the coffin was carried a large black flag decorated with yellow spots and figures; and the female mourners, who followed it, held in one hand a corner of their garment, which they shook violently, as if in the act of driving something before them.

At the distance of a mile and a half from this town is the village of Sennehour Medini, in the environs of which are some considerable remains of antiquity. The surface of the ground is, indeed, completely covered with ruins; yet there is nothing entire except a few brick vaults, and some prostrate columns of marble and granite. The attention of a spectator is drawn off from these remains by two adjacent villages,

handsomely built of brick, and apparently the most ancient of the villages in Lower Egypt.

Hearing of some ruins on the opposite bank, at the distance of half a league from Schlimé, our traveller approached that side of the river, and discovered at a distance, some considerable vestiges of an ancient city; but as night began to wrap the country in her sable veil, he was compelled to relinquish his intended examination, as it would have been extremely imprudent to have remained during the night in a district that is equally known and dreaded as the resort of thieves and pirates. The village off which our author anchored is called Salhe el Adsjar, where he purchased a tolerable collection of antique fragments from the natives; and on the 28th continued his voyage to Fouah, which, at a time when the Nile was permitted to fill the canals with its waters, when boats laden with the commodities of Europe or Asia could tranquilly navigate the Alexandrian canal, without dreading the fury of the sea, or being subject to the inconvenience of the Boghass, was a large and flourishing city, where the natives of Europe had their commercial establishments: but the barbarous supineness of the Egyptian rulers having suffered the mud to collect in the bed of the canal, so as to impede navigation, commerce was necessitated to abandon the shore of Fouah, and to carry its riches to the harbour of Rosetta. Fouah has, therefore, declined considerably from its pristine splendour; its contracted limits, dilapidated edifices, and wretched inhabitants, all announce the swift approach of a general decay. Nature, however, still smiles propitious on the surrounding soil, which displays a rich and constant fertility, and the fruits of the district are still held in high estimation on account of their superior excellence.

Fouah has been supposed, by many persons, to be the ancient Metelis; but our author seems rather in-

clined to think it was the Naucratis of the Milesians, and the country of the celebrated grammarian Athenæus, who remarks that in his time there were here fabricated earthen vases, the covers of which resembled silver. In front of Fouah, the Nile forms, in the middle of its course, an island called Gezerit-el-Dahab, or the Golden Island.

Having followed the course of the Nile through an extent, which, from the numerous sinuosities of the river, was upwards of one hundred and eighty miles, our traveller landed safely at Rosetta, where his return removed the anxiety of his friends, respecting his personal safety, as a report had been recently circulated, that he and his companions had been murdered by the Arabs; and this news had received additional weight from the testimony of Hussein, who acknowledged that he had left them in a very perilous situation. This worthy Bedouin had been for some time at Rosetta; and on the first intimation of Sonnini's arrival, he hastened to embrace him with all the demonstrations of a heart-felt joy, and to mingle his congratulations with those of the merchants at the French factory.

After a short stay at this city, Sonnini received intelligence, that Murad Bey and Ibrahim Bey, supported by an Arabic prince, had re-entered Cairo, after having defeated their enemy, Ismael Bey, and obliged him to fly into Syria. Upper Egypt being now no longer infested by ferocious and undisciplined combatants, our author was anxious to avail himself of a moment of tranquillity, which in these countries is so very uncommon, and accordingly commenced his voyage directly towards Cairo.

In his passage from Rosetta, he stopped at Jag-nouss, where he had heard there were the remains of an ancient city. In fact, he discovered at some distance below that village, and not far from the edge of the river, a large space of ground, entirely covered with ruins. Some magnificent vaults of brick still remained entire, and several columns of granite lay

prostrate on the earth. The inhabitants of the adjacent country are continually loading their camels with the fine bricks which they obtain by demolishing the vaults ; and, in pursuing this plan of devastation, they frequently meet with statues, medals, and other fragments of antiquity : but such is the absurdity of their religious laws, and their own stupidity, that they instantly break in pieces whatever statues they happen to discover. The ruins may probably indicate the site of the ancient city of Tava. Their situation may be easily recognised by the tomb of a Turkish saint, that is built directly opposite to them, on the eastern bank of the Nile.

Having purchased a few fragments of antiquity, which had escaped the general rage for destruction, our traveller resumed his voyage ; but the wind again proving unfavourable, he was obliged to stop at Terané, of which we have already spoken. At length, however, a propitious gale filled the sails of his boat, and a forest of masts, with their lofty lateen yards, soon announced his approach to the busy port of Cairo. He landed at Boulac, a pleasant town on the eastern side of the harbour, and there hired some asses to convey himself and his companions to the capital, which is only about half a mile distant. After passing through the crowded and noisy part of the city, he arrived at the retired quarter occupied by his countrymen, and took up his lodging in the house that had been recently quitted by the French consul.

To suppose that Cairo resembles the great cities of Europe, would be to form a very erroneous idea. The houses are neither so well built nor elegantly formed. The streets are unpaved, exceedingly narrow, and not disposed in straight lines ; the squares are large and irregular, and are, in fact, vast basins of water during the inundation of the Nile, and fields, or gardens, when the river has retired to its usual limits. The streets are continually crowded with numbers of men, of various nations, who dispute their passage

with the horse of the Mameluke, the mule of the lawyer, the numerous camels which supply the place of carriages, and the asses that are commonly used for riding.

This great commercial city, which is of greater length than breadth, covers a space of about nine miles*, and is inhabited by Turks, Mamelukes, Greeks, Syrians, Arabs, Copts, Moors, Jews, and a few Europeans. Sonnini estimates the population at four hundred thousand souls.

The splendour and profusion of luxury are here strongly contrasted with the rags and nakedness of misery, and the extreme opulence of the rulers with the most frightful poverty of the lower class. The riches bestowed by commerce on the intermediate order of people are either buried, or carefully concealed. Those who have acquired wealth dare not enjoy it but in a clandestine manner, as knowing, by long experience, the unrestrained covetousness of power.

A few arts are exercised at Cairo by foreigners; yet mechanical trades are far from having attained any degree of perfection, and the sciences are entirely unknown. In many points, the two extremes of the people are very nearly connected. The bey and the poorest individual are equally illiterate, fanatical, and superstitious. Reading and writing are accounted great accomplishments, and are, with arithmetic, confined to merchants and men of business; while the Mahometan priests are literally buried in the gloomy labyrinth of scholastic theology, and devote their time to the study of the ridiculous reveries contained in the koran.

“No where, in fact,” says our traveller, “can a people be more barbarous than the inhabitants of

* The author most probably means, it is nine miles in circumference.

Cairo. Foreigners, persecuted and even personally ill-treated under the most frivolous pretences, live there in perpetual fear. The French had established several mercantile houses, in a small enclosed quarter, which was shut up by a large gate, and guarded by a few Janizaries." The whole city of Cairo is in fact divided in this manner into separate quarters, which are denominated *countries* by the Europeans. Confined to their country, the merchants are a prey to continual anxiety, and dare not walk the streets without appearing in the oriental habit: as, if any native of Europe should presume to walk abroad in the dress of his own country, he would inevitably be either murdered, or otherwise cruelly treated.

Nor is it enough that foreigners consent to be clothed in the long robes of the East, but it is also requisite, for their safety, that some part of their dress should be a distinguishing mark, or badge of proscription.

The head-dress peculiarly assigned to the Franks is a sort of high hairy cap; but for some time previous to our author's travels, the English had introduced among them the head-dress of the Druses, consisting of a large piece of striped silk, decorated with fringe, and rolled round the head like a turban. Another indispensable precaution is, not to have the colour of green in any part of the dress, as this would be considered in a Christian as a criminal profanation, and would infallibly draw the heaviest effects of Mahometan fury upon the offender's head.

Green, which was the favourite colour of the successful impostor, is still reserved exclusively for his numerous descendants, and for such of his followers as are supposed to have merited a particular mark of honour by their frequent pilgrimages to Mecca.

Our author visited the camp of Murad, where he found, for the accommodation of that bey and his principal officers, immense tents, that were divided

into several apartments. The floors were covered with the richest carpets, and the interior decorations consisted of the most beautiful gold and silver stuffs that were ever manufactured at Lyons. The cavalry was equally magnificent with the officers' tents. Gold and silver ornaments, with the choicest embroidery on Morocco leather, glittered with a dazzling lustre in the beams of the sun; and the housings of the saddles were made of the most elegant velvets, enriched with small delicate patterns, and trimmed with a broad gold lace.

Sonnini was likewise admitted, occasionally, into Murad's palace, by means of a young Frenchman who enjoyed his confidence. The bey received him with much civility, desired him to sit by his side, and to smoke out of his own pipe; a distinguished honour in Egypt, but which was by no means flattering to the European. Murad would likewise, at these times, ask a thousand foolish questions, which betrayed the most profound ignorance. Sonnini's answers, however, proved so satisfactory, that the bey determined to take him into his service, in the double capacity of physician and engineer. He even offered him a large house at Cairo, domestics and guards, a daily abundance of provisions, and a considerable salary; but Sonnini was too prudent to be seduced by a man, who, according to his capricious humour, would one day load a person with favours, and the next suddenly throw him into irons, probably issue out an order for his execution.

The personal appearance of Murad is extremely martial, his chin is covered with a bushy black beard, his thick eyebrows resemble arches of ebony, and his large eyes are animated and full of fire. To great bravery he joins extraordinary strength and singular address. An intrepid warrior, capable of enduring the greatest hardships, an excellent horseman, dexterous and powerful in the use of the sabre; bold in enterprise, cool in action, but terrible in

an engagement with his foes, he might with proper instruction have been a great general. His haughty deportment and liberal disposition give him the dignified appearance of a monarch; but ignorance, cruelty and oppression have rendered him, in reality, a ferocious tyrant.

The custom of engaging in sham fights, and too often in serious combats, has rendered the Mamelukes a brave and warlike race of men; the ardent ebullition of their youth would, indeed, have made them a formidable body, had they possessed any knowledge of European tactics, or any idea of engaging in regular ranks. Their cavalry certainly derives a great advantage from the peculiar excellence of their horses, and the extraordinary skill of the riders. Even some of the children, though dressed in large pantaloons, that scarcely permitted them to walk, have been seen, by our traveller, to gallop backwards and forwards on Arabian coursers, with astonishing swiftness, and to wheel about in every direction. "All their movements," says he, "whether of approach, retreat, or change of disposition, are made with the rapidity of lightning; and when the velocity of their career seems to have separated them, they are in a moment again collected." There are certainly no people who are able to show themselves to greater advantage in their equestrian exercises than the Mamelukes. The Turkish cavalry is well known; but it would be materially injured by a comparison with these, as the Turks are evidently deficient both in respect of grace and agility.

The Egyptian horses have been erroneously described, by some Europeans, as being equally destitute of strength and spirit; whereas our author, corroborated by many other witnesses, both ancient and modern, affirms them to be the handsomest on the face of the globe. A majestic stature, the head well set on, full animated eyes, wide nostrils, a fine forehead, the crupper round and plump, slender ten-

dinous legs, a light yet sure step, noble attitude, and an admirable proportion between all the parts, give them a most beautiful appearance. They are not, indeed, so strong as the Arabian horses found in the same countries, nor are they capable of performing such long journeys; yet they compensate for this deficiency by their beautiful make, proud step, and stately motions.

This peculiar breed of horses is restricted to two paces, a stately walk and a gallop. They are totally unacquainted with the trot, as it is reckoned by the Egyptian equestrians a vulgar and ignoble pace.

When the rider dismounts, the horse is led about by a servant till he resumes his seat; and however short the distance he may have ridden, the horse is never taken to the stable, till he has been thus led about long enough to recover his breath, and to become cool. This custom seems universally adopted by all the oriental nations. The horses are rubbed down with the utmost care, and are frequently washed. Their food is also different from that of the horses of Europe; as, instead of hay or oats, they are regularly fed with chopped straw and barley. When in their stalls, the head is left at perfect liberty, by which means that handsome part of the animal is preserved from such defects as are often occasioned, in the western hemisphere, by the weight or improper make of the halter; their hoofs are simply covered with a light semicircle of iron, that is neither turned up at the ends nor studded with large nails, but is yet sufficient to defend them from injury, in a country where there are no miry roads, or pavements.

Horses are reserved exclusively, at Cairo, for the military. The consuls of the European nations enjoyed, indeed (in consequence of their treaties with the Porte), the right of riding on horseback; but they seldom availed themselves of this privilege, except to go into the country, or to repair to the pasha's le-

vee, at the commencement or termination of their consulship. They knew by experience the perils attendant on their prerogative, and never exercised it without sustaining much abuse from an ignorant and superstitious populace.

M. Tott having demanded a public audience of the pasha of Cairo, our author, to his great regret, was present at one of these ceremonies of pride and humiliation, which a temporary vanity purchased at the expense of opprobrium and personal danger.

The aga of the janizaries was commissioned to make the requisite arrangements, for the Europeans; and he acquitted himself of his charge in the most magnificent manner. The horses were the finest that could possibly be procured, and their natural beauty was still enhanced by the dazzling lustre of their gilt and embroidered trappings. Each horse was led by a groom; and these fiery coursers, unused to a slow step, impatiently champed their bits, pawed the ground, moistened their chests with the breath that issued from their burning nostrils, and, by all the restless activity they could possibly employ, endeavoured to free themselves from restraint, and to gratify their ardour by indulging in their accustomed pace.

Janizaries mounted upon asses led the way. Next went the French interpreters, mounted in a similar manner. The cavalcade advanced between two lines of infantry. The Frenchmen marched in file, and, unfortunately for them, in their native dress. All the merchants of their nation then followed, mounted on asses, and habited in the oriental fashion, and a body of foot soldiers closed the procession.

Being obliged to traverse a considerable portion of the city, they had to go a full mile and a half before they arrived at the castle, while the populace, who were astonished to see the Franks so honourably attended, lavished upon them the most opprobrious epithets, and even the more moderate loudly pitied

the horses, which, they said, were thus condemned to carry "dogs and accursed infidels."

The ceremonial of the audience was conducted after the Turkish manner, a few insignificant sentences were interchanged; sweetmeats, coffee, and sherbet were served; perfumes were burnt; and after the space of a few minutes the Europeans withdrew.

During the short time occupied by the audience, the Egyptian rabble had collected, in order to intercept the Franks on their return. M. Tott desired the interpreters to throw around them some handfuls of medines; but this munificence answered no other purpose than that of inflaming the Mahometans, who instantly returned the favour by a shower of stones and volleys of invectives. The clothes of the interpreters were literally torn to rags, though the guards, by an active employment of their long staves and sabres, attempted to disperse the mob; and several stones passed so near the head of our author, as actually to endanger his life: he now, therefore, resolved, though rather too late, no more to increase the pomp of ostentation, under such perilous circumstances.

On the travellers' return to the district occupied by the French, a new uproar took place, as every guard, groom, and domestic, demanded a remuneration for his trouble. The aga of the janizaries also announced his claims, to which the mortified Europeans were obliged to submit; and this disagreeable business, after much altercation, was at length happily concluded.

The castle of Cairo is situated at the back of a mountainous chain, on the eastern side of the river, called Mokattam, or Hewn Mountain, on account of its extreme steepness. It commands the city, but is itself commanded by the summit of the Mokattam. It is flanked with two towers, and provided with a few indifferent pieces of cannon; yet the edifice is much dilapidated, and is apparently hastening to de-

cay, through the neglect of the Egyptians, notwithstanding it is the only defence of their capital. It affords a charming prospect; and the remains of several magnificent apartments, which are still, in some measure, supported by columns of granite and the most beautiful marble, are worthy of the spectator's attention. In the midst of the enclosure is the deep excavation known to Europeans by the name of Joseph's Well. This well, which is sunk in a soft calcareous rock, is formed of two sections, that are not in the same perpendicular line. A flight of steps forms an easy descent, and on the platform separating the two sections oxen are employed in raising the water by means of a wheel. This curious well is said to be two hundred and eighty feet deep, and forty-two in circumference; the water is excessively brackish.

The houses of Cairo are extremely ill built; the smallest of them are crowded with a wretched and numerous mixture of inhabitants; those of the opulent are commonly surrounded by a court; the generality of them are constructed of three different materials, viz. brick, wood, and stone; but they have no appearance of regular architecture, nor are they enlivened by any exterior decoration. Within is a spacious hall paved with marble, having in the middle a marble reservoir of water; these halls, which are the whole height of the house, are covered with a small dome, having an aperture on the north side, which admits the wind through a narrow tube, and increases the agreeable coolness produced by the marble and the water.

The walls flanked with fine towers, by which the city was formerly surrounded, have been sadly dilapidated by the destructive hand of barbarism; nor is Cairo now defended by any fortifications. Sonnini observed two gates, of the most simple and noble architecture. One of these is called Babel Nair, or the Gate of Victory; and the other is denominated

Babel Foutouh, or the Gate of Passage, because it was on this side that sultan Selim entered the city by a breach.

The suburbs of Cairo contain many fine buildings towards the east, which are the mausolea of the ancient Egyptian sultans ; most of them are now falling to decay.

A large canal that communicates with the Nile a little above Old Cairo, and is most probably the work of the Pharaohs, crosses the middle of the city from the west to the north-east. Over it are thrown several bridges, and these are embellished on each side with two houses. According to the Arabic historians, the bed of this canal is paved with marble ; but it is at present covered with thick strata of mud. The famed Egyptian river no longer runs through it, except in August, September, and October, when the squares are converted into large lakes by its inundation. During these three months, might be seen by the light of torches, and the splendour of illuminations, a variety of boats, richly decorated, floating upon its surface, while bands of musicians exerted themselves to gratify the concourse of people who repaired thither, after the heat and fatigues of the day, to breathe the refreshing air, and to seek amusement in the festive scene. These inundated squares, then affording so delightful a prospect, are soon changed to unsightly and infectious marshes, which in their turn, yield to the dominion of fertility ; and the stranger, who has recently mourned their desolate appearance, beholds, to his utter astonishment, these noxious plains of slime and mud, completely clothed with the verdure of esculent herbs, or crowned with the rich luxuriance of the yellow harvest.

The ceremony of breaking down the dike which closes the entrance of the canal, was a day of jubilee to the citizens. The pasha and beys appeared in great state upon this occasion, which our author witnessed on the 9th of August 1777. As the canal

gradually dried up, the bottom, on which was thrown all the filth and offal of Cairo, emitted a noxious effluvia, that rendered the surrounding houses almost uninhabitable: fortunately, however, this inconvenience was soon remedied by the extreme heat, and then became one of the most populous streets in the city.

During his residence at this place. Sonnini spent much of his time at the windows of the consul's house, from whence he had an opportunity of seeing the dancing girls, whose steps and motions bear no resemblance to the dances of Europeans; they consist chiefly of quick motions of the loins, which they agitate with astonishing suppleness, while the other parts of the body remain motionless. These movements are interrupted by a quick and airy spring from the ground, performed to the sound of a hautboy, a lute with three strings, and a tambourine.

These female dancers, who always attract an immense crowd of spectators, by their wanton and indelicate exertions, wear on the thumb and fore finger of both hands a little cup, which they occasionally strike together, in cadence, like castanets. Their nostrils are decorated with a ring, and their face is uncovered; which, in these countries, is considered as the height of effrontery. At the conclusion of their dances they let down their veils, take hold of their ears with both hands, and sing, or rather squall, with all their might.

The dancing girls are succeeded by jugglers, whose tricks and dexterity are much the same as those of the conjurers in Europe. Tumblers likewise entertain the populace with several feats of activity, and are accompanied by a sort of merry Andrew, whose office is to excite laughter among his spectators.

From Cairo to Boulac, the road, which is much frequented, is greatly infested with improvisatori. These poor poets, who wear a cap made of rushes, salute every passenger with an extempore composition

in verse ; whenever they have an idea of obtaining some money, two of them immediately commence a dialogue on the virtues of the person whom they address, and to whom they are entire strangers. Thus they spend their time in reciting, with great volubility, the praises of all who pass them, in a long rhapsody of mere common-place.

The other amusements that served to relieve the ennui of a dull and retired life, which our author was necessitated to lead at Cairo, were the various processions connected with the civil or religious ceremonies of the people, which occasionally passed before the entrance of the French dwellings. One of the most splendid, and at the same time the most noisy of these processions was that of weddings. When the preliminaries of a family union are settled, the bride elect is attended whenever she goes from home with a numerous and pompous retinue. Preceded by drums and hautboys, she walks in state beneath a fine canopy, enclosed with drapery, and is surrounded and followed by a considerable concourse of people. Her first visit is to the bath, where she is successively dressed in the habit of a janizary, a mameluke, or in some other male attire, to the great delight of herself and her female companions, who usually spend the greatest part of a day in the adjustment of these masquerade habits, and in the bursts of merriment which such droll metamorphoses must of necessity occasion.

A few days after this visit, the bride is conducted from the residence of her father to that of her destined husband, attended by the same procession, and preceded by a number of persons carrying all her clothes, jewels, and a few trifling moveables. On this occasion the appearance of the lady's property, which constitutes the whole of the marriage portion, is a principal source of vanity, and therefore requires that every attention should be paid to display it to the greatest advantage. The different articles are distri-

buted among several persons, some of whom bear only the weight of a few ounces ; for the magnificence of the ceremony consists in the greatest possible number of attendants.

Though there is no part of the globe where priests have greater influence and preponderancy than in Egypt, yet they have never attempted to intermeddle in matters relating only to social order, or to direct the formalities of marriage, which the Mussulinen universally consider as a mere civil compact. The parties present themselves before the *cadi*, who receives their declaration, writes the agreement, and draws up the contract.

Another ceremonial, in which both the Egyptians and Turks display the most ostentatious parade, is the circumcision of their children. These processions, consisting of several bands of musicians, horsemen with their brilliant ornaments, and persons of every rank accompanying the boy to his initiation into the Mahometan religion, form a spectacle admirably grand, and worthy the attention of a foreigner.

From a survey of the warehouses at Cairo, Sonnini has been led to pronounce that famous city the emporium of the trade of almost every quarter of the world. At the period of his researches they were filled with the beautiful silky stuffs wove from the wool of Cassimere, and with the various and elegant manufactures of India. In some of them the diamond of Golconda shone with dazzling brilliancy, while the less effulgent pearl of the eastern ocean modestly exhibited its ardent rays ; and in others the porcelain of Japan displayed its lively and permanent colours. Some of these public receptacles were scented with an immense quantity of the fragrant berries of the coffee-tree of Yemen and the spices of the Molucca islands ; while the finest essences and most precious perfumes that Africa and Arabia could produce, imparted to others a mixture of the most delightful exhalations. European commodities were

equally abundant, and from the interior of Africa were constantly received supplies of gums, ivory, gold and slaves.

This last species of merchandise is brought to Cairo by the caravans of Nubia. Two of them sometimes arrive in the course of the year, and the unhappy wretches intended for sale may be estimated at between fifteen hundred and two thousand. During Sonnini's residence at Cairo, their price rose according to the extent of the importation; but the handsomest slave, either male or female, might be purchased for about three hundred livres.

On their arrival at the Egyptian capital, these negroes are uncomfortably crowded into a building appropriated to their reception, and in a long, narrow street adjacent; they are cruelly exposed to sale by their own countrymen, who permit every person who chooses to examine them, to turn them about, and make them use their limbs in every way as is practised by the dealers in cattle in Europe.

The markets of Cairo afford so great a profusion of the necessaries of life, that all the delicacies of the table may be there procured at a very reasonable rate. Every sort of fish that is found in the Nile is there to be found; and in the month of September a species of larks may be purchased, which are taken by bird-catchers on the small patches of ground surrounded by water in the inundated plains. They arrive from the coasts of the Mediterranean bordering upon Barbary, but their stay at Cairo is of very short duration.

Anxious to prosecute his interesting researches, our traveller now determined on penetrating, if possible, into Abyssinia. The route by the Red Sea appeared the most agreeable, and he accordingly proposed to go first to Djedda, and from thence to Souaquem and Arkiko; but considering that he must wait a considerable time for a passage to Djedda, and that he might be probably detained there still longer, be-

fore he could reach the shores of Ethiopia, he altered his resolution, and determined to take the route of Upper Egypt, though it was rather dangerous on account of the itinerant Arabs, who committed their depredations with impunity, while the country was convulsed by tumults and disorder.

In consequence of this resolution, he waited upon Murad Bey, who gave him recommendations to all the commanders of Upper Egypt, and a letter to a powerful Arabic prince named Ismain Abou-Ali, by whose assistance Murad had been restored to the office of schech el Bellad. Sonnini also procured letters from the superior of the missionaries of the Propaganda, who have four houses for the reception of monks in Upper Egypt.

The period of our author's departure was now fixed, and a kanja, or little boat, hired for his intended voyage; but on his arrival at Boulac the wind blew so strong from the southward, that it was impossible to ascend the Nile against its violence; he therefore resolved to spend the day upon the banks of the river, where a busy multitude of people exhibited all the bustle of a commercial port, and where a variety of scenes upon the water served to obliterate disagreeable reflections, and to make the moments of delay pass over unperceived.

The better to disguise his European appearance, Sonnini had adorned his head with a red turban, which, with the other parts of his dress, gave him permission to walk about without attracting any particular attention, as he was supposed a Mahometan. This precaution, it seems, was suggested to him, previous to his departure, by Murad Bey. "Disguise thyself carefully," said he; "dress in such a manner, that the most discerning may not be able to pronounce thee a *Nazarene*. Thou must indeed be such in the presence of my kiaschefs, and of all such as thou must apply to for protection; but before those *dogs of Hell* appear to be a Mussulman, and occasionally

pass thyself for one of my officers, as the only means of safely eluding their wickedness and barbarity."

Opposite to Boulac, on the western bank of the Nile, is the village Embabé, famous for the excellent butter that is there made. This is the only place in Egypt where that article of food can be eaten fresh; as in every other part of the country it is really good for nothing.

The fertile plains that surround Embabé on the western side are clothed with several excellent productions, among which is a species of lupins that are in great estimation among the Egyptians. The seeds, when stripped of their thick and hard covering, are boiled in salt and water, and thus sold, ready dressed, in the streets and markets. They are too hard to be used in either soups or ragouts, but when boiled they constitute a favourite dish with the natives. The Christians of the East make use of them as a stimulus for drinking brandy, and flour is also made of them, which is used like that of other farinaceous plants. The stalk of the lupin reduced to ashes is accounted superior to other charcoal in the composition of gunpowder, and the meal is excellently adapted for cleansing the hands and softening the skin.

The south wind having moderated, our author and his companions quitted Boulac on the morning of the 21st of March; but the voyage was of short duration, as the reis, or master of the boat, pretended that his little vessel stood in need of repair, and upon this pretence stopped at Old Cairo, the Misr el Attiké of the Arabs.

This town, which indicates the site of the Babylon of Egypt, is about half a league distant from Boulac, and is the port for such boats as come down from the Said. Here, in the midst of the Mahometan mosques, are a Catholic church and convent, and a Jews' synagogue; the Copts have likewise a grotto, or low chapel, which, according to a pious tradition,

is said to have been inhabited by the Virgin Mary when she fled with her infant Saviour into Egypt.

At Old Cairo may be seen Joseph's Granaries, if indeed the name of granaries can justly be given to a large space of ground, surrounded by high walls, and divided into separate courts without any covering. The walls are badly constructed, and their appearance sufficiently modern to contradict the public error, which has attributed their erection to the patriarch Joseph. They are now used for the reception of the corn brought from Upper Egypt as the fiscal's dues.

A work more worthy of attention, and which is in fact the only object that claims the admiration of travellers who visit this city, is the aqueduct that supplies the castle with water from the Nile. It is supported by three hundred and fifty lofty and narrow arcades, and the water is raised by a chain-pump, with four wheels, which is worked by oxen.

In front of Old Cairo, in the middle of the Nile, is an island of about five hundred yards in breadth, where is built the mekkias, which signifies measure. It is there that the rise of the river is ascertained upon the graduations of a pillar, and from the observations made thereon public criers proclaim through the streets of the city the successive heights of the water, on which are grounded all the hopes of the natives with regard to fertility and abundance. This Nilometer is supposed to have been erected by the Arabs; the island is called Rouda, or Gardens, because it is inhabited exclusively by gardeners, and is consequently clothed with the rich productions of Flora and Pomona.

On the other side of Rouda the town of Gizah extends along the western bank of the Nile. The lofty turrets of the mosques, the numerous date trees that embellish its environs, and the majestic river which laves the very foundation of the houses, renders this place peculiarly pleasing at a small distance. In the vicinity of Gizah once flourished the famous

Memphis; and the celebrated Pyramids, which may be justly styled the most valuable relics of Egyptian glory and magnificence, are at so small a distance as to be called, indiscriminately, the Pillars of Memphis, or the Pillars of Gizah.

A fresh breeze from the northward having succeeded the contrary south wind, our traveller quitted Old Cairo on the evening of the day in which he landed, and resumed his voyage till towards night, when he stopped near a small village called Sheick Itmann. The houses were all built of mud; yet its appearance was remarkably pleasing, as it was completely surrounded by groves of date-trees, whose verdant tops, bent down by the wind, formed an admirable shade to the flat roofs of the houses, and rendered the landscape equally picturesque and interesting. Several egrets were likewise observed among the branches of these trees, whose dazzling plumage produced a charming contrast with the bright verdure of the foliage.

Having noticed some Coptic monasteries, and the villages Toura and Mazara, our author came within sight of the pyramids of Saccara and the town of that name, famed for its vast catacombs, or repositories of mummies both of men and animals. He then passed the villages of Sohim and Berdrisgé, and arrived in the evening at Kafr Jáiat, an assemblage of mud houses, which is, however, the residence of a kiaschef. At this place the western shore of the Nile is remarkably steep, and the village erected upon it may be seen at a considerable distance. A chain of mountains which, behind Toura, is close to the bank of the river, here recedes, and admits of a more extensive cultivation. The Nile here flows in its natural bed between two high shores, and the inhabitants of the country are necessitated to employ machines in drawing the water for the purpose of moistening their grounds. There are a sort of swinging levers, placed upon a horizontal cross bar, that is furnished

with leathern buckets. A man, half covered with rags and amusing himself with singing, spends the whole day in keeping one of these levers in motion, and pouring the water into troughs, or trenches, which communicate with the plantations. To raise the water to the level of the ground, it frequently requires four or five of these hydraulic machines, some of which have two levers, supported by the same cross bar. The eastern shore is perpendicular; the opposite one has an imperceptible declivity; but, owing to the length necessary for the conduits, still greater labour is requisite on that side, to water the lands to advantage.

On the morning of the 23d, Sonnini proceeded, with a light breeze from the northward, to the village Riha, built upon the western shore, and nearly opposite to Atfieh, a town formerly consecrated to the Cyprian goddess under the name of Aphroditopolis.

On the 24th, our author visited the town of Komrigé, on the western side of the Nile, where there are a sufficient number of mosques to announce a considerable population. From hence he proceeded in the afternoon, and towards night moored his *kanja* at Schment el Arab, a village situated on the same side as Komrigé. The houses of this place, like all those of Upper Egypt, are built in a square form, and on their flat roofs are dove cots, which resemble architectural ornaments. This gives the village an agreeable aspect at a distance; but on a near approach the delusion vanishes, and nothing is to be seen but huts of mud and every sign of extreme wretchedness.

The morning of the 26th brought the travellers to the town of Bousch, where they met with one of those southerly gales of wind which are equally famous and alarming in these countries. "Woe," says Sonnini, "to those who may then be traversing the immense and dreary sands, which form the borders of Egypt! Intrepidity is there of no avail, as the most courageous armies might be overwhelmed with clouds

of sand, perish from suffocation, and die in despair." At the period of his travels, he affirms, "the atmosphere seemed on fire, though darkened by whirlwinds of dust. Both men and animals inhaled the scorching vapours, mixed with burning sand; the plants were literally parched with the surprising heat; and all animated nature was withered."

This terrific gale of wind having continued, and even increased in violence on the following day, the mariners were much dejected, and it was only by dint of promises that Sonnini prevailed on them to set the *kanja* again in motion, by tracking it along; but the fury of the storm soon rendered their efforts abortive, and obliged them to seek a shelter behind a sandy point, that served to screen the boat from the violent agitation of the current. The heat was now much greater than on the preceding day; every limb was bedewed with a profuse perspiration, and the sand which adhered to the travellers' faces might be said to form a kind of mask. The air was darkened by a thick fog of subtile dust, that found its way into every thing, obliging the mariners to bathe their eyes every moment with the water of the river, and precluding them from the possibility of taking any refreshment; for, whenever they attempted to eat, their mouths were instantly filled with the burning particles of dust. At length, however, the fury of the wind subsided, and they were enabled to approach Benisouef, a small town, situated on the western bank of the river, at the distance of twelve miles from Schment el Arab. The houses constructed of brick, the lofty turrets, and the surrounding date-trees rendered the aspect of this place less dismal and unsightly, than the generality of towns and villages in Upper Egypt. It is indeed the largest and most affluent of all the places situated along the Nile, for a space of ninety miles. A manufactory of coarse carpets renders it a commercial town; the adjacent fields are blest with fertility, and clothed with a smiling vegetation; and the cultivators appear much happier in

their persons and situations than those who reside nearer to Cairo.

On the 28th, a dead calm succeeded the burning southern gale. In the afternoon, however, there sprung up a light breeze from the north-east, which enabled our traveller to continue his route till night, when he arrived at a large village called Bébé, the residence of a kiaschef, and embellished with a mosque and a Coptic monastery.

Next day Sonnini set sail with a fine favourable breeze. The weather was delightful, and the atmosphere, cleared of the volumes of sand with which it had been recently loaded, displayed its resplendent azure canopy unsullied by a single cloud, while the kanja swiftly passed through the yielding waters, till the sailors thought proper to cast anchor in the vicinity of Scheick Zaiar, a large place on the western bank of the river.

On the 30th they continued their route to Senon-Seni, a well-built town, on the same side as Scheick Zaiar. Here our author took particular notice of the manner in which the women provide themselves with a stock of water from the Nile. The load of each individual consists of three earthen vessels. One, very large, is placed upon the head; the second, rather smaller, hangs behind the back, being supported by a cord, passed across the forehead; and the third, which is still less than the second, is supported on the left shoulder, and held by the right hand.

On the 31st a pleasant breeze carried the travellers to Miniet, where a mountainous chain extends along the bank of the Nile towards Arabia, and its perpendicular position gives it the appearance of a lofty wall constructed by art.

Miniet, if compared with the other places in the same country, is certainly a pretty town. The streets indeed are narrow, the houses are roughly constructed of unburned brick, and the public edifices are clumsy and irregular; yet a traveller who has been long accustomed to see only such towns and villages as are

calculated to inspire sentiments of pity and contempt, cannot fail of admiring Miniet and its cultivated environs. The house occupied by the kiaschef, as well as those of some of the most opulent inhabitants, are built of stone, the whiteness of which forms an agreeable contrast to the monotony of the reddish gray of the others. The bazars, or places frequented by merchants, are tolerably commodious, and the crowds that are seen there announce a numerous population and a brisk trade. Here is a manufactory for earthen vessels, called bardacks, which constitute a very profitable branch of industry, and are remarkably useful to the inhabitants, as water that is put into them acquires a pleasant degree of coolness.

Prostrate and mutilated columns of granite, and some few retaining their original situation, with numerous heaps of rubbish, clearly demonstrate that Miniet occupies the site of a more ancient city, but respecting its name authors have disagreed. Some have pronounced it the site of Hermopolis, meaning most probably Hermopolis the Great, so called to distinguish it from two others of the same name, formerly existing in Egypt. Others have asserted that these ruins are those of Cynopolis, where dogs were worshipped by the populace, and others again have supposed Miniet to be the ancient Philæ. The modern town is near one hundred and fifty miles from Cairo.

Sonnini had brought from Cairo two recommendatory letters, one to the kiaschef of Miniet, and the other to an opulent man who was a friend to the French merchants, but found himself disappointed by the absence of both persons, as the kiaschef was making the tour of his district, in order to levy contributions, and the Turk was at one of his villages not far from the town. The letter directed to the latter was, however, forwarded to him, and the next day he sent a present of five sheep and two large pots of butter to our author, with a complimentary message expressive of his regret at not being able to pay

a *personal* attention to the accommodation of the stranger.

The second officer in command at Miniet, having broken his leg three days before Sonnini's arrival, and understanding that he was a physician, sent for him to his house. Our author accordingly obeyed the summons, and found the case to have been treated in a manner truly curious by a Coptic surgeon. The patient was laid upon the ground, without either mat or carpet, having nothing beneath him but a bed of sand. His extended leg and thigh were fixed between stakes driven into the earth, which also supported a small brick wall, built up on each side, in such a manner, that the fractured limb was confined in a piece of mason work, where it was to continue till the completion of the cure, while, in order to promote the formation of the callus of the fracture, a composition was daily applied to the leg, consisting of earth, oil, and the white of eggs.

On the 2d of April, towards evening, the weather was extremely rough; showers of rain, which rarely occur in Upper Egypt, were accompanied with violent gales of wind from the south-west; columns of sand obscured the beams of the sun, and short-breaking waves agitated the surface of the river.

Next day, the storm having abated, the travellers resumed their voyage, and on the 4th came within sight of Sheick Abadé, on the eastern bank of the Nile, where immense ruins, and a long tract of ground completely covered with rubbish, announce the site of a large city, that was founded by the emperor Adrian, who, notwithstanding his military and political talents, rendered himself contemptible on account of an unnatural passion for the beautiful Antinous. Adrian having been told by the Egyptian soothsayers that he was threatened with great danger, unless a person, who was exceedingly dear to him, and by whom he was ardently beloved, was sacrificed for his preservation, consented with equal cruelty and cowardice to the death of Antinous, who

generously offered himself as the victim, and voluntarily bade adieu to the scenes of life, by precipitating himself from the summit of a rock into the Nile. Thinking to obliterate his disgrace and ingratitude, the emperor immediately erected a city, in honour of his favourite, under the name of Antinoopolis; embellished it with the most exquisite ornaments of art; erected temples; instituted games and sacrifices; and himself regulated a worship that was to be paid to the memory of his supposed deliverer. Yet the intention of Adrian was sadly defeated, as, instead of *effacing*, he *perpetuated* his barbarity and criminal passion, by the name of the city, and the excellent statues of the unfortunate sufferer.

Antinoopolis was built on the site of the ancient Egyptian Abydos, long celebrated for the oracles delivered by a pretended divinity called Besa. Abydos and Antinoopolis are, however, now mingled in one general destruction. The vestiges of the latter excite the traveller's regret, as its mutilated remains exhibit rather the elegant forms and graceful contours of the best Grecian and Roman architecture, than those heavy and gigantic monuments or prodigious masses of stone, which are generally found among Egyptian ruins, and which are better adapted to strike with astonishment, than to charm with admiration.

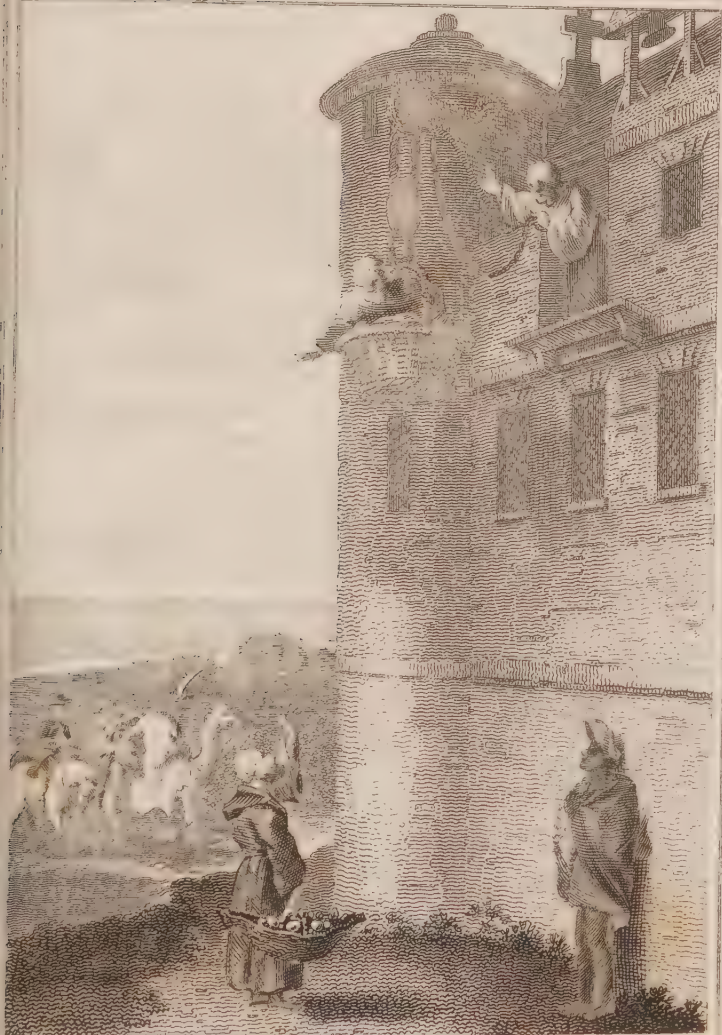
It was with extreme difficulty that our author prevailed on the boat-master to approach these ruins, as they are infested by the worst and most resolute robbers in Egypt. After some altercation, however, Sonnini landed with his draughtsman, and found among a rich variety of antique monuments a triumphal arch, or magnificent gate, decorated with fluted pillars; its front was one hundred and fifty feet in length, and so worthy was it deemed of observation, that our author resolved to have had a complete drawing of it, for the satisfaction of his countrymen; but while the draughtsman was employed in his sketch, the report of a gun announced the approach of robbers,

and the travellers had only time to reach their boat, and make their escape before the arrival of the banditti, who saluted them with many threats and imprecations.

At the distance of nine miles from Sheick Abadé, is a small pleasant town, called Mellavoui: it is situated about half a league from the western bank of the Nile, and is the residence of a kiaschef; the adjacent plain is extremely fertile in corn, and yields a considerable quantity as an export to Arabia.

On the evening of the 25th, our traveller arrived at Manselout, a large town, and much handsomer than Miniet. The streets are wider and better planned; the situation is delightful; the walls are elegantly shaded with a variety of fruit-trees and majestic palms; and the commerce is very considerable, consisting of all sorts of grain, and cloths of the native manufacture. On the opposite side of the Nile is a large Coptic monastery, entirely inclosed with high walls. The only mode of admission is that of being drawn up in a basket by means of a pulley, whence the edifice has obtained the appellation of "The Convent of the Pulley."

On the 6th of May, Sonnini arrived at Siout, which he describes as one of the largest cities in Upper Egypt. It is built upon an artificial eminence, at a small distance from the western shore of the Nile. The inhabitants are supplied with water by means of a canal, over which is a Gothic bridge of three arches, built of stone, and tolerably handsome. The adjacent mountains form behind the town an amphitheatre of steril rocks. The other side of these mountains, overlooking the river, appears at a distance as if pierced with many holes of various forms; they are indeed the inlets to excavations in the calcareous rock. Some of these entrances are in the form of an oblong square, and others in that of an arch. They are of handsome workmanship, and ornamented with a variety of symbolical devices, among which our author remarked, both in the interior and on the outside, the figure of a man leaning upon a stick. Many of the



Convent of the Pulley.

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excavations form spacious chambers, about thirty feet high; the sides of which are embellished with figures and hieroglyphics; but these are nearly effaced by all-destroying time. Some remains of painting may still be discovered on the ceilings, and there are also some deep square wells, but too dark to be seen, and too dangerous to admit of descent. Numerous and various have been the ideas of different authors, upon the original purpose of these immense caverns. Sonnini, however, seems perfectly convinced that they were originally used for the sepulture of the ancient Egyptians, and that several beautiful grottoes, with which they are surrounded, were the catacombs of the Lycopolitans.

At the foot of the mountains is an enclosure set apart for the burial of the Mahometans. It was recently white-washed at the time of our author's visit, and its winding construction, full of intersections, rendered it a very agreeable and picturesque object.

A caravan of Negroes being ready to set off from Siout, on their return to Sennaar, the capital of Nubia, our author deemed it the most favourable opportunity of undertaking his destined journey into Abyssinia; he accordingly concerted all his arrangements with the black chief of the caravan, and was upon the point of commencing his route, when an event occurred which obliged him finally to relinquish the design.

The kiaschef of Siout, who expressed a great regard for our traveller, was requested to use his interest in settling the price that Sonnini was to pay the chief, or kabir, for his journey. The Nubian at first demanded an exorbitant sum, till after several conferences upon the subject, when he was rather more reasonable, but his price was still excessive. At length, however, this Nubian seemed extremely anxious for our traveller to visit Sennaar, and after promising him the greatest luxuries at the court of his Sennaarian majesty, he declared that, (exclusive

of fifty patackes, for camels and provisions,) he would demand no remuneration for his trouble, as he was well convinced the king of Sennaar would be highly gratified with the European's visit, and would sufficiently reward him for conducting Sonnini to his country.

This sudden change created some suspicion in our author's mind, which his companions, less solicitous for a sight of the African interior, had not been so slow in conceiving. However, Sonnini was still so impatient to embrace an opportunity of performing his favourite plan, that he had resolved to accompany the kabir, when he was requested to visit the kiaschef, without any other attendant than his Egyptian servant.

On his attending the summons, he was thus addressed by the friendly Mameluke: "You must, at least for the present, relinquish your intended journey to Sennaar. The importunities of the kabir gave me some suspicions, but I did not choose to mention them till I was well convinced of their propriety. I have now sufficient proof that yourself and the other Franks, your companions, were designed an easy sacrifice to cruelty and covetousness, as the *dog* of a Syrian, whom you retain in your service as an interpreter, has resolved, together with the kabir, to terminate your existence by assassination in the midst of the Desert, and then to divide your property between them. In order that no doubt may remain in your mind respecting the atrocious treachery of the ungrateful *dog*, that you have cherished to a bad purpose, I will have him brought hither, and oblige him to acknowledge the horrid plot in your presence."

The Syrian interpreter immediately arrived, his mouth extended by a stupid, habitual grin, and his countenance expressive of satisfaction, as imagining himself called upon to interpret an interesting conversation. But no sooner had the kiaschef asked him a few questions, than his features were overspread with

a guilty paleness, and his trembling limbs bespoke the agitation of his mind. At length the kiaschef informed him that it was no time for dissimulation, as the kabir had already confessed the particulars of his perfidy, and that he was perfectly acquainted with the whole affair. The appalled interpreter instantly fell, as if struck by lightning, at the Mameluke's feet, acknowledging his transgression, and accusing the kabir as the author of the plot, and of what he called his own misfortune. The kiaschef, assuming a most menacing tone, commanded the offender should be caned to death, and Sonnini allowed a sufficient interval for all the pangs of terror to take possession of the coward's soul, before he attempted to exert himself on his behalf; but when he saw the instruments of punishment brought forward, he humanely entreated the incensed Mameluke to pardon a wretch who was unworthy of his notice. For some time his request was fruitless, and the kiaschef only consented to it, at last, upon the absolute promise of the European to punish the interpreter himself. Sonnini accordingly expressed his warmest thanks to the generous officer, and drove out of his house the perfidious kabir, who had again come to solicit his speedy departure with the caravan.

The Nubians of Sennaar and of Dongola are tall and well-proportioned; their skin is of a fine glossy black; and, like the Turks and Arabs, they wear a beard and whiskers. The barbarous chief, alluded to in the above anecdote, wore a long thick beard, which, owing to his advanced age, was, together with his whiskers, of a most beautiful white, and consequently formed a striking contrast with his sable complexion. These Negroes follow the religion of Mahomet, but they add to it many of their own superstitious and peculiar usages. As they seldom have any more covering than is required by decency, they account it a luxury to wear a long shirt, of blue or gray cloth, the sleeves of which are turned up

under the arm-pits. They have commonly several small leathern cases fastened to the bend of the left arm; these are used as pockets, for the reception of money, tobacco, and other articles that are frequently wanted. Upon the right arm is fixed a poniard, with a leathern sheath and handle. They have no covering for the head, but plait or friz their woolly hair in different ways, according to their several fancies. Those who are occupied in trade speak the Arabic language; but among themselves they have a particular idiom. Besides gold and other merchandise, their caravans also bring from the extremity of Africa to the Egyptian capital various animals, for the amusement of the opulent and the subsistence of show-men; as monkeys, paroquets, &c.

Sonnini, having acquired a great reputation at Siout, as "an European physician, patronized by Murad Bey, and recommended to the most powerful prince in Egypt," was prevailed on, through the medium of the kiaschef, to visit the sheick of a Bedouin camp, in the environs of Manfelout: he was accordingly conducted to the camp by an escort of Arabs; but on his arrival the sheick was much disappointed, to find that he was unable to restore an old Arab to his sight, on whose account his attendance had been requested. After assuring them that his skill did not extend so far as the working of miracles, and telling them that nothing but a miracle could restore the invaluable blessing which the Arab had now lost for two years, he took leave of the Bedouins, whose tents were pitched upon the sand, near the village Tetalié, and returned to Siout by way of Manfelout.

The plains that surround Siout are exceedingly remarkable for their abundant fertility. The orchards yield a fine variety of fruit, and the farinaceous plants are to be admired for their rapid growth and surprising produce. Hemp is cultivated in these countries; but instead of being spun into thread, as is practised in Europe, it is prepared by the Arabs and Egyp-

tians in such a manner as to supply the want of intoxicating liquors, and is said to throw them into a sort of agreeable inebriety, that inspires gaiety and occasions pleasant dreams.

Although the Egyptian hemp seems to approximate to that of Europe, it still differs from it in some particulars, that seem sufficient to constitute a distinct and peculiar species. On a strict examination, it appears that the stalk of this plant is much thicker and shorter than that of Europe. Its leaves are broader, and less dentated; its exhalation is much stronger, and its fructification is smaller, and at the same time more numerous than in the European species.

After a long residence at Siout, which was partly occasioned by indisposition, our author thought fit to continue his route to the south of Egypt; but as he was unable to procure a boat he was compelled to change his mode of travelling, and accordingly hired two camels and six asses to carry him and his companions to Echmimm.

Quitting Siout on the 23d of May, about eleven o'clock in the morning, the travellers proceeded for about ten hours, when they reached a small town called Tomieh, which is the residence of a kiaschef, and, like the other towns in this country, is pleasantly shaded from the intense heat of the sun by a fine enclosure of date and other trees, whose cheerful foliage serves to soften the wretched appearance of the habitations. In the mosque there is shown a stone figure of a camel, which is said to turn towards Mecca at the time when the sacred caravan quits Cairo, and to resume its former position when the pilgrims set out on their return. Such is the fable related by the townsmen, but Sonnini had no opportunity of examining their wonderful statue.

Next morning the travellers pursued their journey, leaving Tomieh about six o'clock; but they had scarcely rode six miles, before they observed four horsemen coming towards them, who had every ap-

pearance of a banditti. During a considerable time they continued to ride round our author and his followers, sometimes stopping, and occasionally threatening them with an immediate attack, by couching their lances and setting their horses at full gallop; but finding at length that instead of exciting terror they only afforded amusement, by their manœuvres, to a party who were prepared to destroy them all at one discharge of their pieces, they abandoned their design, and disappeared with incredible velocity.

At ten o'clock the travellers entered Tahta, a town situated at the distance of thirty-six miles from Siout. Here our author was delayed by an opulent Copt, who requested him to call at his house, to give his advice on a dangerous disorder, and on his arrival earnestly entreated him to delay his journey till the completion of the cure. Sonnini vainly attempted to hasten his departure, by asserting that the Arabic prince, Ismain-Abou-Ali, expected to see him. The invalid observed, that he was acquainted with the prince, and would write a letter that should be accepted as a sufficient apology. Our traveller then represented to him, that the residence of himself and his retinue at his house would be attended with much expense and inconvenience; but instead of attaining his end by this remark, he received the following answer: "Dost thou suppose that the Orientals have no more greatness of soul and generosity than the *Franks*, to whom the expense of an additional inmate is a heavy burden? Were there a thousand of you, I could afford you board and lodging without any inconvenience." Sonnini was consequently necessitated to remain with his patient, according to his request.

His complaint was a violent erysipelas, or St. Anthony's fire, which completely covered one side of his breast. The afflicted part appeared as if it had been burned, and the patient suffered as much as he possibly could have done from the action of fire. He had

for some time been afflicted with this acute disease, and had vainly hoped for relief from the skill of the Italian missionaries at Echmimm, who had been called in as physicians, and had bled him repeatedly without effect. Sonnini, however, was more successful, if not more skilful, in his mode of treatment, as, at the expiration of ten days, he informs us, the Copt was completely cured.

The recovered patient could not now express his joy and gratitude. The most delicate attentions were lavished upon our author, and, previous to their separation, he sent by another Copt some rouleaux of sequins, as a compensation for his physician's trouble: but Sonnini now resolved to retaliate for the haughty manner in which he had at first been treated; he therefore returned the proffered reward to the bearer, desiring him to tell the master of the house, that a *Frank* rendered his services solely for the pleasure of comforting or relieving a fellow creature, and that so far from receiving any gratuity, he must beg of his generous host to accept of a fine telescope, in return for his hospitable treatment, as he could not possibly endure the idea of living at the expense of another. The telescope was accordingly accepted, and Sonnini, at his departure, left the Copt impressed with a more favourable opinion of Europeans than he had entertained at his arrival.

In the plains of Tahta are to be seen the first plants of the species of corypha, or fan palm-tree, which seems peculiar to the upper part of Egypt. This palm shoots out several naked stems, of a tolerable thickness. They are annulated all their length, and their top is terminated and embellished with large palmate fan-shaped leaves. The fruit, like that of other palms, grows in clusters. "A clump of these trees," says our author, "produces a fine effect, as, by disposing their stems in the form of elegant vases, nature seems to have taken a pleasure in enlivening, with their grand and beautiful aspect, plains fre-

quently sterilized, and always parched up by the rays of a burning sun."

Having procured some small antique stones, the engraving of which was not destitute of merit, our author quitted Tahta on the 1st of June, pursuing a southerly direction upon the western bank of the Nile, which is here remarkable for its great sinuosities. Being tired of the heavy pace of the camels, and relying on the assurances that he had received of the safety of the roads, he went on before with two of his companions; but when they stopped for the rest of the party, they did not make their appearance. It was therefore concluded that they had been attacked and overpowered by a band of robbers; and after spending the greatest part of the day in waiting for them, Sonnini proceeded to a large village called Souhaje, built near a quarter of a league from the bank of the river.

Here our traveller was cordially received, and hospitably entertained by the kiaschef, whose civilities, however, proved insufficient to tranquillize a mind that was violently agitated by the recent mishap, and distressed at the loss of the baggage, in a country where an European is deprived of every hope of resource.

Resuming his journey the next morning before day-break, in order to cross the Nile to Echmimm, which is situated upon the eastern bank, Sonnini heard the agreeable news, from the master of the ferry-boat, that his companions and the camels had arrived there early on the preceding evening, as the camel-drivers had conducted them thither by a short and easy route, while our author had given himself much unnecessary pain and trouble, by penetrating too far into the country.

On his arrival at the town of Echmimm, Sonnini hastened to the convent of the Italian Recollets of the Propaganda, where he found his companions, who had now begun to grow uneasy about their leader,

and were in fact just resolving to recross the river, in order to search for him. They told him that their reception at the monastery had been both rude and inhospitable, as it was not without many difficulties that the monks permitted them to repose within the walls, and had afterwards intimated that they must provide themselves with another lodging. Our traveller was received in a manner equally rude. When he entered the court, one of the monks, who was walking in a gallery, pretended not to see him, and retired to his apartment. Sonnini went up, and, to use his own expression, saw a complete monkish puppy, whose delicate and florid complexion bore no marks of inconvenience from the heat of the sun; his beard was nicely combed, and symmetrically tapered, and his whole appearance announced the most absolute self-love and unmanly vanity. "My sunburnt face," says our author, "appeared to startle him, and the wrinkles of ill-humour furrowed his feminine forehead, while, with a look of disdain, he surveyed me from top to toe." Scarcely did this coxcomical being deign to raise himself from the sofa, on which he was reclined; yet he permitted the European to remain standing before him, telling him at the same time, that the community had received his baggage and attendants, and that nothing would be demanded in return for this act of hospitality.

Instead of making any reply to so *great* an exertion of benevolence, Sonnini presented him with a letter from the superior general at Cairo, who had recommended the stranger to the attention of these monks, in the following terms:

To the Right Reverend Father Gedeon of Baviera, President at Achmimm.

"M. Sonnini, a naval officer in the service of the French king, having presented himself to us, and explained to us his intention of travelling into Upper Egypt, in order to examine the antiquities in that

part of the country, M. Charles Magalon, a French merchant of this city, our well beloved friend, having also spoken to us on the same subject, I entreat you, my reverend fathers, to show him all the charity, civilities, and assiduities, that your profession and seraphic poverty will admit of; to direct him likewise, that he may fulfil his intentions; to enable him to present himself to the chiefs of the Arabs, for whom he has recommendatory letters from the sangiacs, that he may receive from them every requisite assistance, and that they may furnish him with guides, &c.

“Hoping all this from your natural goodness, and expecting a prosperous issue, I am always at your command; I recommend myself to your devotions; I embrace you with all my heart; I give you my seraphic benediction; and am

“Your reverence’s most humble

“and most devoted servant,

“Brother GERVAISE D’ERMEA, President.”

“Cairo, 12th March, 1778.”

The delicate monastic read the letter with a smile of contempt, and then told our author, that he was not himself the superior, but would go and look for him: his words and actions, however, accorded but badly, as, without further ceremony, he turned himself round upon the sofa, and neither vouchsafed to speak to, or look at, the disgusted European again.

Sonnini now went down into the court, where the baggage was thrown, and waited there till the afternoon, before his servants could procure a lodging in the town; during which time, neither the superior, nor any person belonging to the community, made their appearance. Upon quitting the convent, he sent them a patacke, as an acknowledgement for his companions’ lodging; but they did not think proper to carry their incivility so far as to accept it.

From what our traveller could observe of this monastery, he conceived a high opinion of it, not having seen so handsome a building for a considerable time.

Equally spacious and well constructed, it might, indeed, be accounted a palace, when compared to the surrounding dwellings of the natives. The employment of the monastics, who have been justly described by Mr. Bruce as "men destitute of knowledge and understanding," is no other than to deceive the credulous and rob the opulent; and from hence may be gathered a sufficient reason for their brutality to Sonnini, viz. they were unwilling to expose to the eyes of an European a mode of life that must inevitably have rendered them contemptible.

If the houses of Echmimm were built of better materials, the town might justly be styled handsome, as the streets are wide and straight, which is scarcely ever the case in the towns of Egypt; but their appearance is extremely gloomy, on account of the unburned bricks, simply kneaded with mud, and cemented with earth, that are employed in the architecture. Those, however, belonging to the higher class of natives are half burnt. The walls are decorated with several rows of large earthen pots, of different sizes and shapes, which serve as an asylum to pigeons. A pigeon-house is likewise to be seen on every terrace, in the form of a large square tower.

On the eastern side of the town is a chain of steep and barren mountains, from which the heat of the sun is reflected so strongly, as to be sometimes insupportable. On the 3d of June, a thermometer, placed in the shade, rose to 86 deg. The wind was then at north-east; but though it blew strong, it only served to inflame the air, by the intense degree of heat which it had contracted in passing over the sandy plains.

Remains of the ancient city of Panopolis, or Chemmis, are still to be seen to the eastward of Echmimm, and near the walls of the modern town. Our author there discovered an enormous block of stone, bearing on one of its sides a Greek inscription, which is, however, too much obliterated to be legible. A portion of this curious stone is concealed in the ground; but

that which appears above is seventeen feet in length, eight and a half in breadth, and four in thickness. An excavation in the earth, beneath the uncovered part of the block, affords the facility of seeing the paintings with which that part of the surface is embellished. In the middle is a sphere, with the twelve signs of the zodiac. The colours are indeed scarcely visible, except an azure blue, which seems to have triumphed over time and devastation.

A little further are to be seen the ruins of an ancient edifice, but no part of the general plan can now be distinguished. Large stones exhibit the fragments of paintings and hieroglyphics; but all is overthrown, and sadly mutilated. An ancient mosque is highly venerated by the Christians, who assert, that it was formerly appropriated to the performance of their religion. The Copts assert that it has stood upwards of a thousand years: but this is certainly a mistake; for though the edifice is considerably dilapidated, and literally dropping into ruins, yet its construction clearly announces that it is not the workmanship of a period when buildings possessed a surprising solidity. This temple is large, and has several entrances. The interior, like that of all the Egyptian mosques, is an empty naked enclosure. The small granite pillars, however, which were taken from the ruins of Pano-polis, for its support, are worthy a foreigner's observation, and the periphery is lighted by a line of contiguous windows.

The cultivated grounds in the vicinity of Echmimm are justly celebrated for an abundant fertility. They produce the most excellent corn in Egypt, besides sugar-canes, and cotton which serves to supply a manufactory of coarse calicoes. Gardens, where a fine variety of plants grow beneath the umbrageous fruit-trees, yield an abundant provision for the tables of the natives, and afford a delightful retreat from the scorching beams of the sun. The apples are here much superior to those of Tahta, but water-melons

are small, and of an inferior quality. Among a prodigious quantity of musk-melons, our author observed some that were exceedingly large. These fruits do not assume any regular form, being sometimes round and sometimes oval; nor are they by any means thick, though much elongated like a large cucumber. They are held in high estimation by the natives of Upper Egypt, notwithstanding the insipidity of their pulp, which renders them much less agreeable and cooling to the thirsty palate than good water-melons.

Quitting Echmimm, on the 9th of June, Sonnini and his companions crossed over to the western bank of the Nile, in order to pursue their journey by land to Farschout. During the whole of the day the heat was so intense, and the air filled with such fiery clouds of dust, that both men and cattle were in imminent danger of suffocation, and all sought a shelter from their dreadful suffering. Indeed the European seemed the only person who attempted to lead a company of men through the woods, in the middle of the day, as not a single person was seen in the course of their painful and perilous march.

Having made the tour of Girgé, the capital of Upper Egypt, the travellers arrived, about five o'clock in the afternoon, at the modern town of Bardis, situated twenty-four miles south of Echmimm, where Sonnini was received with much civility by a wealthy inhabitant, to whom he had brought a letter from a Copt at Echmimm.

From hence he proceeded to Farschout, where is established another community of Italian Recollets. He had carried them a similar recommendation to that which proved of so little use at Echmimm, and he was anxious to see whether it would have the same effect. He therefore left his companions in the environs of the town, and proceeded to the house of the monks. A menial refused him admittance, under pretence that the superior was asleep. Sonnini then desired him to take charge of a letter from the supe-

rior-general ; but even this request was insolently refused. Our author, whose patience was now quite exhausted, snatched the letter from his hand, and dispatched a person in quest of a lodging among the people of the town. Three hours elapsed in a state of uncertainty, while the messenger was endeavouring to find an accommodation, and the travellers were exposed to all the inconvenience of the heat and dust. Sonnini then requested, by means of his interpreter, that the monks would at least point out a house to which he might retire. The superior returned with the interpreter, and begged him to make use of the convent ; and Sonnini adds, that he afterwards met with the appearance of *civil* if not *disinterested* hospitality.

Although there were but two priests in this religious house, there was room for a great number, as the edifice is spacious, handsome, and commodious. Here our author met with a Christian merchant of Cairo, whom he had before seen at the Egyptian capital, in company with the victorious Murad Bey. This merchant now offered to introduce our author to the Sheick Dervisch. Accordingly the next day they went together to the house of the prince, which was much inferior to that of the religious *mendicants*. The sheick received our European with the utmost politeness, and made him many gracious offers, but strongly dissuaded him from continuing his journey by land, on account of the great number of robbers that infested the road.

Dervisch was the son of an Arabic prince, named Ammam, celebrated in Egypt for his connection with Ali Bey. He was young and corpulent, and his countenance was highly expressive of mildness and good-humour. He was rather imprudently addicted to pleasure, but otherwise he was one of the most affable and agreeable men of his nation.

The little town, which is subject to his command, is situated at the distance of six miles from the Nile. It is ill constructed, and bears the appearance of ex-

treme wretchedness. Between it and the river stands a town called Basjoura, the residence of a kiaschef. The harbour of these two places is at a small village called Sahet. Sonnini seems inclined to suppose that Farschout is erected upon the site of the ancient Acanthus, in the vicinity of which there was a sacred wood. This was the second city so called, as there was another of the same name that stood to the south of Sacarra, on the spot now occupied by Daschour.

Resolving to conform to the advice of the Sheick Dervisch, Sonnini agreed with the master of a kanja to carry him to the residence of Ismain-Abou-Ali; but as he understood that the navigation of the Nile might probably prove dangerous, though more secure than the roads, he left a part of his baggage with the monks of Farschout. He then bade adieu to the friendly sheick (who had given him several recommendatory letters for other Arab sheicks, treated him with the most distinguished respect, and finally loaded his boat with all sorts of provisions), and repaired to the banks of the Nile, in order to resume his journey; but just as the boatmen were going to put off, a subordinate Mameluke, who commanded at Sahet, obliged both our author and his companions to come out of the boat, while all the baggage was carried on shore. Sonnini exerted himself to oppose the seizure; but the savage Mameluke, who was surrounded by several soldiers, would hearken to nothing. He affirmed that the boat was for the service of the kiaschef, and protested that no one should change its destination. Sonnini then showed him the letters of the beys; but he only replied with contempt to their contents, and assured the European that he laughed at all the beys who commanded in Cairo, while he was possessed of the government at Sahet.

Finding entirely fruitless all attempts to reduce this upstart to reason, our traveller sent for camels

to carry back his effects to Farschout; but while they were loading, the insolent Mameluke called the interpreter aside, and offered to let Sonnini have the boat, on condition of his paying a sequin. To this proposal he received for answer, that he should not have a single medine, let him act as he pleased. He now gradually abated his demand, till at length he begged our author to make him a present of a quarter of a patacké, which was accordingly agreed to, in order to avoid a longer delay; and the vile slave received this paltry sum as the value of an avanie which he had imposed, and calculated, in proportion to the importance of his government.

In consequence of this delay, it was impossible for the travellers to commence their voyage till the ensuing morning; they therefore passed the night in the boat, opposite to Sahet. The kiaschef having heard of the imposition of his subaltern, sent him a sharp reprimand, and a positive order to return the money he had extorted. He accordingly came and apologised for his conduct, ascribing the whole transaction to the effect of inebriety. Sonnini accepted his submission, and generously added the afore-mentioned coin to his free forgiveness.

Next morning the travellers quitted the shore of Sahet, (after a long altercation with the reis, or boat-master, who, in imitation of the petty officer, had begun to set up his claims,) and met with several rafts, formed of melons, that were driving down the Nile. This fruit is very common in Thebais; and, in order to save the trouble of loading it in boats, the natives make it into rafts, which float extremely well, and every piece of which is designed for consumption. When these rafts have only to cross a river, they are constructed on a small scale, and are conveyed by a single swimmer to the opposite bank; but when they are designed for a long passage, they are made larger, and are towed along by a boat.

At some distance above Sahet, our author discovered

a crocodile, the first that he had seen in Egypt. It lay motionless in the middle of the stream; its head alone appearing above the surface of the water. Higher up the river, these dreadful animals become more common, and are justly dreaded by the inhabitants of the adjacent country, who, in some places, are compelled to make a fence of stakes and faggots in the river, in order that the women, who go to draw water, may not have their legs bitten off by the crocodiles.

The travellers now stopped near a small village, which, under the barbarous denomination of Hou, indicates the site of Diospolis, called Diospolis Parva, to distinguish it from two other ancient Egyptian cities of the same name. Heaps of rubbish, large bricks, and larger stones, the remains of a dike, and an arcade, that forms an entrance to a subterraneous conduit, are now the sole vestiges of the ancient works.

From hence our author proceeded to the village of Kafr Essaid, situated on the eastern bank of the Nile, in one of the spots which the rocky mountains leave open to cultivation and the residence of man. There passed near this place several flocks of birds, among which Sonnini distinguished egrets, aquiline vultures, cinereous collared plovers, and a species of kites, which, by their mournful cry and dark plumage, may be rather said to sadden, than cheer, the Egyptian towns. These kites remain motionless, in large flocks, during a part of the day, on the brink of the river, most probably to watch for such fishes as may chance to approach them.

The wind having proved contrary, the travellers experienced a delay of several hours; but towards evening a favourable gale enabled them to resume their voyage. The approaching night, however, obliged them to stop at a sandy island, below which the Nile forms a great sinuosity, and the stream undermines the western bank in such a manner as to occasion the frequent falls of enormous bodies of

earth. The kanja had happily cleared these dreaded masses, and our author was congratulating himself upon having escaped so great a danger; but he soon found himself exposed to it again, in the most disagreeable manner, through the inattention of the mariners.

The master of the boat and his sailors were reposing on the sand, after having fastened the kanja to the bank, and Sonnini had retired, to obtain a little sleep, when the boat, not having been properly secured, broke adrift, and was carried rapidly down the stream. This accident was not perceived, either by the Egyptians on shore or the travellers on board, as all were equally fatigued, and completely overpowered by sleep, till the vessel, after floating at the mercy of the current, for the space of a full league, struck with a violent crash against the most dangerous part of the bank.

Awakened by this terrific shock, Sonnini and his attendants soon perceived their critical situation. Driven back by a steep and almost perpendicular shore, and impelled towards it by the violence of the stream, the boat was turning in every direction, and striking against the bank in such a manner as to incur the greatest danger of an immediate wreck; while the darkness of the night, the dreadful sound occasioned by the fall of detached pieces of the bank, and the alarming motion of the boat, united to depress and agitate the minds of the European and his companions.

As, however, there was no time to lose, Sonnini placed himself at the helm, and encouraged his inexperienced sailors to exert themselves with the oars, which they accordingly did, and fortunately extricated themselves from the surf, just as an enormous mass of hardened mud fell into the water, with a degree of violence that must indisputably have sent them all to the bottom, if they had remained a few minutes longer in their dangerous situation.

Crossing over to the opposite bank, they now fastened the kanja as securely as possible, in order to wait till the approaching morning should discover where they were stationed, and enable them to find the Egyptian mariners. The men were soon discovered, as, on their first missing the boat, they had swam over the river, with the expectation of gaining some tidings of their vessel and passengers. On their approach, Sonnini's companions resolved to revenge, in some measure, the peril to which they had been exposed, and accordingly saluted them with several blows. The reis, who was a little behind, took to his heels, at the noise of his suffering crew, and it was then impossible to catch him. Next morning he was observed sitting by the river's side, in front of a small village. The travellers accordingly landed, in order to take him on board; but he was still so apprehensive of a well-merited correction, that he again took to flight. Some of our author's companions, however, were dispatched in pursuit of him, and he was at last brought, or, more properly speaking, *carried* back to the kanja, which once more set sail, and, favoured by a strong north-east wind, arrived on the evening of the 17th, at Dendera.

Tentyris, or Tentyra, was formerly a celebrated Egyptian city, the capital of the nome or department of Tentyritus, and greatly renowned for its peculiar splendour. Temples were there erected to Isis and Venus, and the city itself was of great extent; but what rendered it most remarkable was, the enmity of the inhabitants to crocodiles, and the continual war which that people waged against these horrid animals. It is said that the Tentyrite pursued the crocodile into the water, leaped upon his back, and ran a stick into his mouth, by means of which he brought him to the shore, and then put him to death.

The large village now erected near the ruins of Tentyris has preserved nothing of the magnificence

of the ancient city, but the name of Dendera, which, in some measure, recalls to mind the antiquity of its origin. It is situated on the western side of the Nile, at the extremity of a beautiful and fertile plain, where the orchards produce an abundance of fine oranges, lemons, grapes, figs, and pomegranates, and a noble forest of palms and fruit trees, mentioned by the ancients, affords a most charming degree of coolness, in so scorching a country. Dendera and the circumjacent country are under the dominion of an Arabic prince, who bears the title of emir; he is, however, tributary to the beys of Cairo. Our author waited upon this ruler, whose house was extremely mean, the furniture wretched, and his dress, like that of his subjects, consisted only of a long black robe; he was, in fact, only to be distinguished from the other inhabitants of the village by his turban; yet the qualities of his mind made an ample compensation for the poverty of his appearance, and his good sense was greatly superior to that of the generality of Egyptian governors.

Having delivered his recommendatory letters from the beys, and from the Arabic sheick Dervisch, our traveller experienced a very gracious reception, and was much delighted with the emir's urbanity and agreeable conversation. The ridiculous notion, commonly entertained by the natives of Egypt, respecting the motive of Europeans' researches, was treated with proper contempt by this man, who kindly offered to conduct his guest to the ruins of Tentyris, and (on one of the Arabs asking, for what purpose Sonnini had visited the country, and why he wished to examine those vestiges of antiquity,) he gave a shrewd and sensible answer, that was well calculated to overturn the absurd prejudices of barbarians against an inquisitive traveller: "You are totally ignorant of the matter," said the emir, "and probably are not aware that the ancestors of the *Franks* were once in possession of all our country; and that

it is out of respect to their forefathers that they quit their native country, in quest of drawings and fragments, which serve to remind them of their ancient power."

Next morning our author visited the site of Tentyris, which is little more than a quarter of a league from the present village of Dendera. Here he was met by the prince, who kindly undertook to guide him in person, and to point out such objects as had been copied by the pencil of former travellers, and the spots where they had dug up the ground. He even proposed to have any place dug up that Sonnini wished; but as this operation, performed in haste and at random, might have drawn our author into some dispute, without proving of the least utility, he politely declined the offer. The emir then told him, that the peasants, who supposed the *Franks* to have found a great deal of gold among the ruins, had also employed their time in digging, but had found their expectations sadly disappointed.

Amidst a large space of ground, completely covered with ruins, and attesting the magnificence of ancient Tentyris, Sonnini saw one of the most beautiful monuments of ancient Egypt, which had alike withstood the decaying influence of time and the fatal demon of barbarous destruction. It was a temple dedicated to Isis, entire, and in good preservation; its form is an oblong square, and its construction is of white stones, taken from the adjacent rocks. The length of the façade is upwards of one hundred and thirty-two feet. A little below the corona, in the middle of the cornice, is a globe, supported by the tails of two fishes. The great vestibule is sustained by columns of twenty-one feet in circumference. Their capitals are of a single piece, and represent broad faces, placed opposite to each other, on a festooned drapery. Above them are square blocks, that project beyond the figures, and have some resemblance to pannels. The interior of the edifice is

divided into several apartments, embellished with hieroglyphics and symbolical figures. The exterior walls are likewise charged with them in such profusion, that many years would be required to obtain an accurate copy of them, if a draughtsman were even stationed on the spot.

The ceiling of part of the temple is finely painted, in fresco, of a brilliant azure colour, like that which adorns, in a clear day, the splendid canopy of heaven. The figures in relievo, with which this ground is interspersed, have been painted of a beautiful yellow, and these paintings, at the expiration of some thousands of years, actually possess a degree of brilliancy which totally eclipses the best colours of a modern artist. The two sides of the temple are above two hundred and fifty-four feet in length; the depth is a hundred and ten feet eleven inches; the roof is flat, and formed of large stones, many of which are eighteen feet long and six broad. Owing to the accumulation of sand, and the heap of rubbish behind this noble edifice, the soil is raised to a level with the roof, which may consequently be examined from thence with facility, though the elevation of the façade is still seventy feet above the ground. The inhabitants of the district, availing themselves of this situation, had built a village upon the very top of the temple, as upon a more solid foundation than the muddy earth, or inconstant sands. At the period of our author's travels, however, this modern village was deserted, and its ruins, of indurated mud, formed a striking contrast with the splendid remains of the ancient city of Tentyris.

A settlement of a race of barbarians must, of necessity, have proved fatal to a monument which they profaned by their presence more than they burdened it with their contemptible cabins. All the figures that were within their reach are either destroyed or shamefully injured, while those of the ceiling, and on

the top of the walls, have been spared, from the impossibility of getting at them.

These, however, have not been the only people who have diverted themselves with destruction, and triumphed in the mutilation of the most beautiful objects; they were assisted in their barbarous rage by the troops of Cairo, who were frequently sent into Upper Egypt, by the commands of a sanguinary and usurping Mameluke. These soldiers often attempted to level the temple of Isis with the ground, by firing bullets and cannon balls against it in several parts. By this stupid and scandalous practice, the admirable ceiling, already mentioned as retaining such brilliant colours, was materially injured; but the solidity of the building, which had so long withstood the ravages of time, baffled the efforts of ignorant ferocity.

Upon the subject of these devastations the emir spoke with evident regret, while he informed our author of the Mameluke's march through his little state. This prince went, one day, on board Sonnini's boat, having sent before him baskets of all sorts of fruit that the country afforded, among which were some delicious figs, excellent grapes, apricots, and pomegranates. He likewise presented him with some medals, emeralds, and other fragments of antiquity, that are commonly found among the ruins of Tentyris. In return for this generous behaviour, Sonnini begged the emir's acceptance of a fowling-piece, and a small stock of gunpowder, which, after many refusals, were graciously received, and estimated so highly, that our author was immediately supplied with a number of sheep and other provisions, for his voyage, as a small compensation.

On the evening of the 19th, the travellers were obliged to maintain a strict watch in their boat, as some robbers were discovered on the banks of the Nile, who evidently designed to commence an attack. Sonnini was awakened from a sound sleep by the most

dreadful outcries, as the Egyptian boatmen, perceiving the robbers approach them, began to bellow out with all their might, as the only expedient for their defence. The amazed European could not possibly divine the cause of the uproar, nor could he, for some time, obtain any information from his companions, who were endeavouring, by a liberal distribution of blows, to silence the clamorous sailors. At length, however, their exertions were crowned with success, and a discharge of musketry soon rid them of their troublesome visitors.

Next day our author quitted Dendera, and proceeded to the village Abnoub, situated about five leagues to the southward of Dendera, upon the eastern bank of the Nile, and belonging to the Arabic sheick, Ismain-Abou-Ali. About three leagues higher up, upon the opposite bank, lies a considerable village, called Ballas, under the dominion of the same prince, and celebrated for the great quantity of earthen pots that are there manufactured. These vessels, which have no other name than that of the village where they are made, are of a middling size, and have two handles. Their bottom is internally convex, terminating nearly in a point. This shape, though extremely inconvenient, was that of the amphoræ used by the Romans. It seems to have been perpetuated in Egypt from the most remote antiquity.

In these parts of Upper Egypt may be frequently seen whole districts, upon the bank of the river, completely covered with water-melons. It is, in fact, in this situation that this fruit acquires the refrigerant and high-flavoured pulp, which, beneath the influence of a burning sky, renders it so useful and acceptable an article of nutriment.

On the 22d a dead calm precluded the navigation of the kanja to Néguaaté (which lies to the west of the Nile) till the afternoon, although the travellers had quitted Ballas at day-break, and the two places were only three leagues distant from each other.

Néguadé is, in fact, but a large village, although it has been honoured with the name of a city. The population consists of Copts, and a few Catholics, among whom some degree of affluence is diffused, by their manufactures of blue and striped cloths, of which they make an article of trade. Néguadé is likewise the residence of a Coptic bishop, a Catholic vicar who studied for some time at Rome, and two haughty Recollets, who are lodged sumptuously, and whose *scrappie* pride too often wounds the unlettered and indigent, whom they are appointed to instruct, and console, by the mild influence of religion.

During the night of our author's visit, the inhabitants of Néguadé were greatly alarmed by some shocks of an earthquake, which, according to report, were equally perceptible at Tahta; and in the latter place was seen a meteor, similar in appearance to a rainbow, while the atmosphere was literally obscured by thick vapours and most terrific volumes of dust.

Next morning Sonnini continued his route; but though he was only nine leagues distant from Luxor, and the wind was favourable, he could not reach it that day, on account of the sinuosities of the Nile, which prolong the passage, and render it extremely troublesome. As the travellers were now in a part of the river much infested by robbers, it was impossible to land upon either shore. Sonnini therefore caused the kanja to be anchored in the very middle of the stream.

A large stone served as an anchor, and a rope made of the bark of a palm-tree was fastened to it as a cable. During the night, an expert swimmer approached cautiously, and without noise; but he was immediately discovered by the watch, who, by a musket-shot, obliged him to make a precipitate retreat.

At day-break, on the 24th, our author arrived at the village Luxor, built on the ruins of ancient

Thebes, upon the eastern bank of the Nile. He was there informed that the Arabic prince Ismain-Abou-Ali was encamped at an adjacent village, from whence he designed to travel through all his estates. Sonnini accordingly made the best use of his time, in order to overtake a man whose power and interest were in such great repute.

On his arrival at the camp, he was introduced to the prince, whom he found in a tent, wrapped up in a shabby great coat, which he pulled open every minute in order to spit upon his clothes. This eccentric being, who was extremely ugly, quite infirm, and much advanced in years, had the foppery to dye his beard red with henné, to conceal the conspicuous signs of his approaching dissolution. This, however, only served to render him still more disgusting, as the fiery hue of the henné produced a very disagreeable effect upon his wan and wrinkled face. But if his person was unsightly and debilitated, his head was sound, and his understanding perfectly clear. He was surrounded by a multitude of Arabs and inhabitants, to whom he listened with attention, while at the same time he dictated to his secretaries, issued out his orders, and pronounced judgement with admirable precision and presence of mind.

When he had finished his most urgent business, he noticed our author, and asked, in a rather dry tone, who he was. Sonnini drew near, and presented to him the letter of Murad Bey. As soon as he had perused it, he loudly applauded the attention of his friend, who had sent him a physician of *extraordinary skill*. He then began to mention a variety of complaints to which he was subject; but in the end Sonnini found that he expected to be restored to all the strength and vivacity of youth, in as miraculous a way as fable describes the redolence of *Ulysse*. In order that no time should be lost in an affair of such importance, the sheick determined that his doctor should accompany him in his visit to the

estates ; and that he would, upon the road, take the needful restoratives.

After an explanation of his intentions, the prince resumed his business, while Sonnini retired into the shade of a thicket of trees, where he was immediately surrounded by the sort of people who, in Africa as well as in Europe, attach themselves to the favourites of the great. The traveller was entertained with a sumptuous dinner, during which he was not without both spectators and flatterers, and he had consequently a fine opportunity of playing the man of consequence ; but his thoughts were employed upon a different subject, and the duty which Ismain had imposed on him sat heavy upon his mind. He wished to evade a delicate and dangerous office, to which he was inadequate ; and accordingly, while the prince indulged himself after dinner with his usual nap, Sonnini availed himself of the moment to return to the house of a Catholic Copt at Luxor. The prince, however, on awaking, cried out with all his might, " Where is the doctor ? where is the doctor ? " and a messenger was immediately dispatched to Luxor, to tell the European, that, as he had been sent by Murad Bey on purpose to attend the sheick Ismain, he was now become his physician, and must by no means think of quitting him. This message was accompanied with an abundance of provisions, as a present from the illustrious and whimsical patient.

Sonnini acknowledges that he now found himself greatly embarrassed, knowing that it was necessary to come to a decision, and yet was aware of the imprudence of a refusal to Ismain's wishes. Hoping, however, to gain time, he returned for answer, that he was ready to follow his great employer, but that he requested permission to take some repose in Néguaqué till Ismain should commence his progress. This request was immediately granted, and a written order transmitted to Ismain's attendant at Néguaqué, that he might supply the European with every thing he

could want or desire. Sonnini deemed it advisable to depart immediately, as a mark of respect, and accordingly set out for Néguaaté, where he hoped to find some means of avoiding the dangerous honour of being acknowledged physician to an Arabian court.

On the 27th of June, being the day after Sonnini's arrival, a Catholic Copt, belonging to Kous, asked him to meet the superior, whom he had invited to dinner. Next day they crossed the Nile, and on their reaching the opposite bank they found horses waiting to convey them to Kous. This town, which is the residence of a kiaschef, is situated opposite to Néguaaté, but half a league more to the northward. It is supposed by D'Anville to stand upon the site of the ancient city Apollinis Parva, which Antoninus, in his Itinerary, simply calls Vicus Apollinis, or the Village of Apollo. The only antique monument there to be seen, is the front of a small temple dedicated to the Sun. Its breadth is about thirty feet, and its form is that of a rectangular parallelogram; the greater part of it is buried in sand and rubbish, and the remainder is only ten or twelve feet above the surface of the ground. The walls have been formerly embellished with a variety of figures in hieroglyphics, but these are now effaced by the destroying tooth of Time, and the barbarous superstition of the inhabitants. Neither is it now possible to distinguish any part of the Greek inscriptions traced upon the friezes, one of which was copied by Lucas in 1714, and the other by Granger in 1730.

The port of Cosseir, on the Red Sea, is three long days journey, across the Desert, from Kous. The greater number of caravans from Cosseir arrive at Kous. Some also go to Banoub, and others to Kenné. Persons desirous of laying in a stock of excellent coffee must fetch it from one of these places, as when it has reached Cairo it is mixed, by the resident merchants, with common West Indian coffee. At Alexandria it undergoes a second mixture, and on its exportation

to Marseilles it seldom fails to be once more adulterated; so that the pretended Mocha coffee, sold to the French, is frequently no other than the produce of the West India colonies, mingled with a third, and seldom with an equal part, of the genuine Yemen coffee.

Having expressed to Mallum Pector, the Catholic Copt, a wish to visit the coasts of the Red Sea, our author obtained the promise of a secure conduct to Cosseir; but as it was indispensably requisite that he should first see the sheick Ismain at Néguaaté, in compliance with his own proposal, he returned thither with his travelling companion, after having experienced the utmost civilities and attention at Kous.

During the stay that Sonnini was obliged to make at Néguaaté, he employed his time in collecting such observations as seemed best calculated to afford an exact knowledge of the countries in which he then resided: and his first inquiries seem to have been directed towards the fertility of the lands in Upper Egypt, an important point that in all ages has afforded an ample subject for admiration.

It must indeed be confessed, that in this, as in every thing else which deviates from the common track, the love of the marvellous has blended some exaggerated assertions with the simple truth; yet the soil is certainly the most productive of any that has yet been discovered upon the many-peopled globe. A crop of corn, upon a common average, yields from twenty-five to thirty for one; and it is necessary to observe, that it is not here meant to count the number of grains contained in an ear, produced from a single seed; but our author speaks of the entire harvest, of the mass of corn that it furnishes in a given district, so that each measure sown yields a crop of from twenty-five to thirty measures. In such years as prove particularly favourable, the land laid down in corn will yield a produce of fifty for one. For some time previous to Sonnini's travels, the cultivators had complained hea-

vily of their scanty crops; and yet during these seasons, which they considered as times of dearth, the land had produced twenty for one.

This surprising fertility is still more brilliant in the south than in the north of Egypt. Its produce of every kind is more luxuriant; and notwithstanding the heat of the sun, reflected from the masses of surrounding rocks, it is shaded by a greater number of fruit-trees, that maintain a salubrious coolness, and yield a charming retreat to the weary and exhausted traveller.

Exclusive of the vegetative strength of the Egyptian soil, one of the causes of such abundant harvests is the manner in which the natives sow their corn. The sower walks behind the plough, and strews in the small furrow, made by that implement, a portion of grain barely necessary, which is properly covered in tracing a second furrow. By this method there is no waste of the corn; but the stalks, arranged in drills and at suitable distances from each other, easily receive the impressions of the sun and of the air, and are neither confined nor smothered, as is frequently the case in Europe. The grains likewise, with which they are filled, soon become plump and fine, nor ever prove diseased or abortive. Neither are the Egyptian fields overrun with weeds, which, in other countries, are a cruel scourge to the harvest. The corn is sown pure as it is reaped, nor is it mixed in the same field with different sorts of grain, which not ripening at the same time, though of the same genus, can yield nothing but a mixture, that is equally unproductive to the husbandman and unprofitable to the consumer.

Fields clothed with such luxuriant harvests cannot fail to attract granivorous birds. Flocks of pigeons and pairs of turtle doves frequently alight in them; and sparrows constantly assemble there, in the vicinity of the habitations. The crested lark never forsakes this fertile soil, though it is so much annoyed by the excessive heat, that its respiration is evidently diffi-

cult; and in the middle of the day it may be seen with an extended bill and convulsed breast, actually gasping for sufficient breath to save it from annihilation.

Swarms of winged insects serving for food to swallows, these birds never quit a climate so favourable to their habits and support. The Egyptians give them an Arabic appellation, which answers to that of the birds of Paradise. Another species of bird, known in the more northern parts of the country by the name of the wagtail, is no longer to be found in the southern provinces; but small flocks of ravens are occasionally seen.

The most numerous and troublesome among the insects which infest these countries are flies, which cruelly torment both men and animals. It is impossible to form a just idea of their obstinate perseverance, when they wish to fasten upon any particular part of the body, as, when they are driven away, they return and settle in the same moment, and their pertinacity tires out the most patient sufferer. They particularly delight in fastening upon the corner of the eyes and the edge of the eyelids, to which tender parts they are attracted by a slight humidity. Sonnini observed a species, or rather a variety, of these insects, striped with brown and gray, and resembling the common fly, only they were considerably smaller. They are commonly seen on the whitest part of the walls, in the interior of the houses, but are seldom on the wing, and rarely annoy either men or animals.

A beautiful species of ichneumon fly, with a long weapon at the extremity of the body, also enters the houses of Upper Egypt: it shines with the most brilliant colours, its head is of a beautiful emerald green, and the corselet and belly are of a glistening purple hue.

The great humble bee, or the bee with a yellow corselet, is here commonly seen. It may be known in its flight, by a loud and continual buzzing. It is also found in Lower Egypt. Sonnini met with it during

the summer months at Rosetta; but it does not continue after the commencement of the winter.

A pretty species of wasps is likewise common in these parts of Egypt. These insects are about ten lines in length, having two large eyes, and three small points upon the top of the head, placed in the form of a triangle; the fore part of the head is of a lively yellow, with a triangular spot of the same colour between the antennæ, or feelers, which have also a light shade of yellow at their base; the antennæ are purple in the remainder of their length; the rest of the head, the corselet, and the thighs, are purple; the whole of the legs are of a brownish gray, with black claws; the upper surface of the wings yellowish, and the under surface gray.

The first articulation of the belly is of a bright black, bordered with a fine yellow: this body is terminated by a small line, which resembles the purest gold; the second is entirely black; the third is yellow both above and below; it is divided in its breadth at the upper part, by a black line, accompanied by a spot of a similar colour; and upon the under part of this articulation is another black spot on each side, smaller than those on the upper part; the fourth is black above, and brown below. The other articulations are of a blackish brown. These insects are to be seen in the fields, in the gardens, and even in the houses; they delight greatly in the vicinity of the water, and build their nests in the ground.

Scorpions here grow to a surprising size, and Sonnini was assured that their bite occasioned extreme agony, swoonings, convulsions, and sometimes death.

A species of crab is occasionally found in the Nile, though but seldom. The shell that covers the upper part of its body is of a lead colour; the antennæ are partly black, and partly yellow speckled with black; the front of the head is diversified with yellowish and a dark green; the claws and feet are green, tinged with yellow; the extremity of the legs and toes

yellow; and the tail is greenish on the sides and yellow in the middle; the flesh is accounted excellent.

To these details of natural history our author has added the following remarks on the inhabitants of a country, where slavery and its constant attendant, stupidity, have taken place of greatness and power; where superstitious ignorance has succeeded the love of the sciences and the exercise of the arts; while perfect civilization has totally disappeared, and resigned its place to brutality and the most unpolished manners.

“It is hardly possible,” says Sonnini, “to trace the habits of a degraded people, over whom barbarism reigns uncontrolled, without the interference of ideas that are disgraceful to human nature, and which are consigned from the imagination to the canvass of the picture.”

In proceeding up the Nile, towards the equator, the complexion of the men varies or grows darker. In the more southern districts, the Egyptian women have a thick tawny skin. The female dress, exclusive of the opulent or foreign women, who reside at Cairo, is nothing more than a full long tunic, of blue linen, with extraordinary large sleeves. “It is not usual,” says our traveller, “to meet with jealousy without love;” yet some of these women, who are neither susceptible of that delicate passion themselves, nor capable of inspiring another person with admiration, are sometimes overwhelmed with a jealous fury when they discover their husband’s partiality for any other woman. Equally cruel and deceitful, they instil a mortal poison into the veins of their unfaithful partners, and daily instances may there be seen of a dreadful revenge, for which the delirium of passion can plead no excuse. Their blows are always meditated in silence and secrecy, and they coolly enjoy the diabolical pleasure of gradually depriving an unfortunate being of his existence.

The astonishing property ascribed to the smoke of mastic, is a singular fact that was attested to our author by several persons, among whom were the Recollets of Néguaaté, though Sonnini will not undertake to vouch for it upon his own authority : it is said, by the Egyptians, to have the power of killing any sick person by whom it is inhaled ; and though it is extremely probable that this is only a prejudice, it is nevertheless so deeply and so generally spread, that no person entertains the slightest doubt of the deadly quality of burnt mastic.

One day, the monks of Néguaaté, not knowing that any person was sick in the neighbourhood, were employed at the gate of their convent in perfuming their porous, unbaked, earthen vessels for the reception of the Nile water. Immediately a woman was seen to run with surprising swiftness from an adjoining house, holding in her arms an infant that was afflicted with the smallpox. When she had placed the babe beyond the reach of danger, she returned to the convent, screaming aloud, and endeavouring to stir up her countrymen against the Franks, who, she said, had designed to kill her child. Since that time it has been customary to make a strict inquiry, in order to ascertain whether any persons are ill in the vicinity, before any mastic is burnt ; for, whatever may be the nature of the disorder, the Egyptians assert that the smoke of this resin will infallibly terminate their existence, as soon as the olfactory nerves are struck with its smell.

The superior of Néguaaté, having heard of Sonnini's reception with Ismain-Abou-Ali, and of that prince's wish to keep him about his person, conceived a pique at such distinction, and could not possibly bear to see another European, and one who was not an ecclesiastic, enjoying a degree of credit which he wished to reserve exclusively to himself. While, therefore, our author was torturing his imagination to find some expedient that might elude the favours of an Arabic

prince, whom he had no desire either to follow or to serve, the monk, who sought every opportunity of exercising his perfidiousness and malignity, was puzzling himself to prevent the continuance of Ismain's kindness to his supposed physician. On the arrival of the prince at the village Kamouli, which is at a small distance from Néguaaté, the hypocrite obtained a private audience, and ventured to complain of the decline of his illustrious patron's attachment. "It seems," said he, "that the arrival of a foreigner has injured me in your opinion: but, besides that this foreigner comes from a nation noted for impiety, you will find yourself greatly deceived, if, in retaining him, you think to have the benefit of a physician. He never was in the practice of physic, but, on the contrary, is a disguised soldier, and the name of physician is only a mask that he wears, in order to make himself fully acquainted with the country that is blest by your just and glorious government. The medicines which he will give are more likely to poison you than to work any beneficial effect, as he is totally ignorant of their nature and operations. During the ten years that I have been honoured with the title of your physician, I have ever been successful in my prescriptions, and have frequently relieved you from sickness and pain. I have now discovered, by my skill and attention, some new remedies, which will reanimate your person with all the vigour of youth. I request, therefore, that you will make trial of them, and then determine whether I am not worthy to be preferred to a mere adventurer."

Had this iniquitous speech been addressed to a bey, Sonnini must inevitably have expiated with his blood a fraud, which would have been regarded as deserving of the severest punishment. The treacherous monk well knew to what imminent danger he exposed our traveller; but it seems that the destruction of *another* was of no importance in his estimation, provided he preserved *himself* in credit, and could continue, with-

out an intrusive witness, to exercise the most serious deceit at his ease. Ismain, however, discovered no marks of displeasure, and the infamous monk had not the gratification to know whether his measures had produced the desired effect.

On the arrival of the prince, Sonnini went to pay his respects to him, and was received with the greatest respect in the presence of the Recollet himself, who was compelled to stand, while Ismain made our author sit by his side, as a mark of the contempt that he felt for the vile detractor; but nothing more was said respecting Sonnini's attendance upon his person. Our traveller likewise behaved as if he had been ignorant of the whole business, and confined himself to a request of the prince's favour and protection in facilitating the journeys which he designed to make in the principal parts of Thebais. Ismain accordingly commanded commendatory letters to be immediately written, and the parties separated equally satisfied with each other; Ismain, that he was not to have the European for his physician; and Sonnini, that he was happily freed from the impracticable task of renovating an old, infirm, and disgusting debauchee.

After convincing the superior of the convent that his atrocious conduct was clearly known and justly despised, Sonnini quitted the abode of superstition and hypocrisy, and proceeded to Kous, where he was hospitably received at the house of Mallum Pector, the Catholic Copt already alluded to, and where he was necessitated to wait the departure of the caravan to Cosseir, which had been delayed for some time in consequence of intelligence that announced the vicinity of some plundering Arabs.

Kous is completely surrounded by fruit-trees, which form agreeable orchards. These trees are not, indeed, planted with that order, nor do they exhibit that symmetrical arrangement which is, in general, called a work of taste; yet there is, probably, no part of the earth where the traveller can find a more odoriferous

shade, or a more brilliant and diversified foliage. All sorts of fruits here come to maturity; while the interwoven branches of the trees exhibit the most charming confusion. The blossoms, rendered peculiarly fragrant by the heat of the climate, diffuse an incomparable perfume over the smiling regions; and the most delightful trees, which in a colder climate would languish and remain shut up for half the year, are uninterruptedly loaded with blossoms and fruit, while the passing gales are impregnated with the most exquisite and delicious emanations.

At the period of our author's visit, the vines were loaded with long clusters of fine swelling fruit, containing a luscious and highly-flavoured pulp. This fruit is held in the highest estimation by the wealthy inhabitants, and is universally supposed to be the most agreeable aliment for allaying the heat of the blood, occasioned by the intense fervour of the atmosphere. Sonnini here found three different species of the muskmelon, called the agour, the ahoun, and the ab-dela-voui. The first of these is similar to the European melon, but not uniform in shape; some of them being round, some oval, and others much elongated. The second is a species of cantaleupe, with a yellow rind, and the pulp of a yellowish white; and the ab-dela-voui, or slave of sweetness, which merely receives its name from its requiring a great deal of sugar to make it palatable, is elongated, and remarkable for a roundish protuberance that it bears at its extremity. Of all these melons, however, there is none equal in quality to those of Europe, as the generality of them are very tasteless. Yet the water melons are excellent. At Kous, our author met with a species of this fruit, the size of which is unusually large, its sides marked, and its form much elongated. The Arabs have given it the appellation of nemo, which they also affix to the ichneumon.

Upon the dry and almost sterile plains of those parts of Upper Egypt, is found the true acacia, which

yields the gum-arabic. Its port or habit is generally stunted, its stem low and crooked, its branches long, and left almost naked, from the narrowness and paucity of its leaves. Its brown rough bark, armed with long white spines, gives it a harsh and withered appearance; and its flowers are too insignificant, either in appearance or perfume, to compensate for its unattractive port and scanty foliage. Yet this species of acacia must always be reckoned among the most valuable of trees, as its wood is hard, of a deep red colour, and susceptible of the most beautiful polish; its seeds, enclosed in a pericarp similar to that of the lupin, are used to dye Morocco leather, and goats are peculiarly fond of the fruit, which is called karat by the Arabs. But the gum, which exudes from the numerous crevices of the bark, or from the incisions made in the trunk and larger branches, is a very important article in commerce and manufactures, in which a great quantity of it is consumed. Great heat is indispensably necessary for the formation of gum-arabic, as, notwithstanding the acacia thrives in the more northern parts of Egypt, it there produces no gum; while in the burning temperature of Thebais it is commonly covered with congealed and indurated drops of this mucilaginous juice.

“An inconceivable fatality,” to use the words of our author, “seemed to counteract every attempt he made to leave Egypt. His intended journey to Abyssinia had been relinquished on the very day appointed for his departure, and similar motives now obliged him to give up his excursion to the Red Sea. He was surrounded by knaves who conspired against him, and who ever designed him for their victim. Mallum Pector, the Catholic Copt, who had so often promised him an escort to Cosseir, and who had for some time behaved towards him with the greatest apparent cordiality, was in fact no better than a traitor, and so much the more dangerous, from his being completely versed in all the arts of treachery and dissimulation.

The Mameluke who commanded at Kous frequently cautioned our traveller to be upon his guard, observing that he was well acquainted with Pector, and that he knew him to be a man of whom a stranger could not possibly be too mistrustful. Upon this occasion, Sonnini observes that he had commonly more reason to be satisfied with the conduct of the Mamelukes than with that of the natives. With a more rough and ferocious disposition, these foreigners blended a degree of pride and ingenuous bluntness which rendered them truly formidable to those who were placed beneath their despotic sway, but which, by inspiring them with a sort of greatness of mind, ensured the performance of their promises, and the enjoyment of their protection; while the Copts, brutish, gloomy, deceitful, and insinuating, were distinguished as the most abject slaves by their cringeing and insidious deportment.

The attention shown to Sonnini by the kiaschef operated as a restraint upon the rogues into whose hands he had fallen. But an order from Cairo, bereaving this officer of his command, deprived our author of his support; and the very men who but a moment before had trembled in his presence, treated him with the greatest disrespect as soon as they found that his authority was to be vested in another.

Pector, in order to plunder Sonnini, had united his own villany with that of a Turkish merchant, who seems to have been well qualified for any iniquitous undertaking. The preparations for the journey to Cosseir had, for some time past, yielded an inexhaustible source of pretences for asking for presents and money. Sonnini had already given the Copt a telescope, a brace of pistols, and several bottles of cordials; and another valuable telescope had been sent to the Turk but he declined accepting it, as not being the captain of a ship, and hinted plainly, that he would rather accept an equivalent in money, although he had already taken too much, on various frivolous

pretences, as the securing the hire of the camels, the making an advance to the leader of the caravan, &c.; in short, he had obtained, at different times, about five-and-twenty sequins, without attempting to forward the preparations for the journey. Sonnini was told that a caravan was upon the point of setting off, but that its departure was delayed by an account of some Arabs, who were hovering in the Desert; a few days after, there was no caravan, but he was to be conveyed rapidly to the shore of the Red Sea by some fleet camels; but, in this new arrangement, he was to leave his baggage in the hands of the Turkish merchant, who promised to forward it by the next caravan. This plan, however, was rather too barefaced; and Sonnini being well convinced of the imprudence of confiding in such persons, now told them that, not wishing any longer to submit to their knavish arts, he had entirely relinquished his intended journey to Cosseir. This resolution proving unfavourable to the designs of Pector and the Turk, they both endeavoured to change it by every means in their power; but when the European reclaimed the money which he had advanced on account of the journey, they made many bitter complaints, and endeavoured to convince him that he was still in their debt for the great trouble they had taken. Sonnini, however, resolutely threatened to lay the case before the Arabic prince, Ismain-Abou-Ali; in consequence of which, they brought back five sequins, and our traveller preferred being at the loss of the twenty, to remaining longer in a place where he was exposed to the most serious accidents, by the treachery and stratagems of two such unprincipled men.

Previous to his departure, as he was packing up his baggage, Sonnini perceived that a species of large wasp, with violet-coloured wings, had built its nest in the inside of a wooden case belonging to a mariner's compass.

The honeycomb was of earth, nearly of an oval

form, and perforated in the middle with a round hole. Each cell contained a little worm, of a grass-green colour. Round this honeycomb there were some others, that had been begun, but were left in an imperfect state.

On the 17th of July, Sonnini quitted Kous, on horseback, attended by four Arabs, and following the course of the Nile on its eastern bank. In the middle of the day they halted at the village Nouzarie, which is peopled, as its name implies, by Copts, or Egyptian Christians. From hence they proceeded to Karnak, a miserable village, where the cottages might serve as a foil to the grandeur of the surrounding ruins, if, indeed, any thing could be compared to the monuments of Thebes, that famous and illustrious city, which has been celebrated by the first and the greatest of Grecian poets in the following animated strains:

“Not all proud Thebes’ unrivall’d walls contain,
The world’s great empress on th’ Egyptian plain,
That spreads her conquest o’er a thousand states,
And pours her heroes thro’ a hundred gates;
Two hundred horsemen, and two hundred cars,
From each wide portal issuing to the wars.”

POPE’S Homer.

About three miles beyond Karnak stands Luxor, another village, erected at the southern extremity of the site formerly occupied by that celebrated city, on the eastern side of the river. It would have required more time than Sonnini could possibly spare, and more security than could be rationally expected, on a spot that was infested with banditti, to have taken a proper survey of the vestiges which have yet triumphed over the shock of ages and the rage of barbarism. “It would be impossible,” says our author, “to describe the sensations I experienced at the sight of objects so grand and so majestic. It was not simply admiration, but an ecstasy, which

suspended the use of my faculties ; I remained a long time motionless with rapture, and was more than once inclined to prostrate myself in veneration before monuments, the erection of which seemed to surpass the genius and the powers of man."

Colossal and other gigantic statues, obelisks, avenues formed by rows of sphinxes, which are still discernible, though shamefully mutilated ; porticoes of a prodigious elevation ; immense colonnades, the pillars of which are some twenty and some thirty feet in circumference ; colours still retaining an incomparable brilliancy ; granite and marble, lavished in the structures ; stones of astonishing dimensions, forming the magnificent roofs ; and, in short, thousands of prostrate columns literally strew the ground, and strike the spectator with equal amazement and admiration.

Sonnini, having presented a letter from Ismain-Abou-Ali to the commandant at Luxor, met with a very civil and handsome reception, and proceeded under his escort, on the 18th, to the ruins of the ancient residence of the Egyptian monarchs. The magnificence it displayed, and the extent of its circumference, surpass all conception ; but new events occurred to hurry our author from a place which he expected to have examined minutely. Upper Egypt was again about to become the theatre of hostilities between the Mamelukes. Some beys, belonging to the vanquished party of Ismain, had contrived to obtain possession of Thebais, as far as the Red Sea, and there to raise sufficient forces to give some inquietude to the victorious Murad, while the latter was sending a detachment against his remaining enemies, under the command of a bey of his household. In this state of affairs, Sonnini found himself between two parties of combatants equally undisciplined and ungovernable, and inclined to commit the most dreadful excesses. Robbers plundered the travellers by land, while pirates stopped the boats upon the

Nile. Hostile tribes of Arabs had frequent skirmishes with each other; and all authority being at an end, the unprotected foreigner could hardly fail of becoming a victim amidst the general confusion.

It was consequently impossible for our traveller to remain longer in the neighbourhood of the ancient Thebes, nor could he think any more of proceeding up towards the cataracts; as, independently of the dangers to which he must have exposed himself, from a barbarous race who inhabit the southern part of the country, the enemies of Murad would most probably have sacrificed him to their rage, as one of that ruler's emissaries. He was therefore compelled, however loth, to return down the Nile, as the *only* plan that was not absolutely replete with danger.

The Arab sheick of Luxor urged him, in the strongest manner, to depart immediately; but he still wished to cross over to Gournei, on the opposite bank of the river, to see that part of the ancient city of Thebes.

This was accounted the most difficult spot to land at in Thebais, as being infested by a multitude of robbers, who were so greatly dreaded, that the kiaschef of Kous has been heard to say, he would not venture to travel there with his little band of Mameluke soldiers. The sheick of Luxor, therefore, used his best endeavours to dissuade our author from the attempt; but when he saw that his exhortations proved ineffectual, he kindly pointed out such precautions as he supposed might best contribute to the stranger's safety, and accompanied him, in person, to the boat, in which Sonnini arrived at Gournei on the morning of the 29th.

Although the village was at no great distance from the river, yet, as it was the resort of a formidable banditti, our author followed the advice of his friend, and requested the sheick of Gournei (for whom he had also a letter from Ismain) to come to the water side. The sheick immediately complied with his re-

quest, and conducted him to the most frightful and most wretched place, in appearance, that he had ever beheld. The mud huts, of which it consists, are badly constructed, and no higher than a man, nor have they any other covering than a few palm-leaves. But, if the village is unsightly, the inhabitants are far worse; they are half black, and almost naked, part only of their body being covered with miserable rags, while their gloomy and haggard countenance is strongly marked with the traces of their ferocious disposition: having no taste for agriculture, following no trade, and, like the savage animals of the adjacent mountains, employing themselves solely in rapine, their aspect was greatly terrific; and what the sheick of Gournei related of the banditti, was but ill calculated to sooth the fears of the travellers.

Sonnini's companions, whose imaginations had been strongly impressed with all the accounts they heard of this detestable place, appeared extremely uneasy. The Syrian interpreter, equally wicked and cowardly, cried from fear; and they unanimously concurred in blaming their leader, and bemoaning the cruelty of their own fate, in being thus exposed to inevitable destruction, while our author was seated upon the sand in the midst of several rascally peasants, and paying their own price to all who brought him idols, or antique medals.

The western quarter of ancient Thebes is by no means inferior, in point of magnificence, to that which was separated from it by the river; but the monuments it contains are not in so good preservation, and the ruins are piled up in the greatest disorder. There are yet to be seen, as specimens of the astonishing solidity of the edifices that were here erected, the front of the walls of an ancient temple, entirely covered with hieroglyphics; a superb portico; and some colossal statues, among which are a few fragments of the statue of Memnon, celebrated for the sounds which it uttered at the rising of the sun.

Sonnini could only hastily admire these important remains of antiquity, many of which he could only see at a distance.

Our author observes that he was very anxious to visit some large excavations hewn out of the rock, at the distance of three miles to the westward of Gournei; but no person could be found sufficiently courageous to conduct him thither; and the sheick himself assured his guest that, in consequence of a recent war between his subjects and the inhabitants of some neighbouring villages, it would be highly imprudent to expose himself with guides, who, far from affording any protection, would assuredly draw upon him the revenge of their implacable foes.

If the whole of the day, passed by our traveller in a place of so bad repute, was not perfectly free from alarm, the night was spent in a state of extreme agitation. The lodging, assigned to Sonnini and his companions, was indeed one of the largest, but at the same time one of the most unsubstantial, of the cottages. On retiring for the evening, they had taken every possible precaution against the intrusion of the inhabitants, but had scarcely laid themselves down upon their carpets, before a legion of large rats issued into the apartment, ran over their bodies, and bit them incessantly. To add to this distress, a boisterous wind sprang up, which occasionally blew down large pieces of the wretched building, and at length threw one of the walls to the earth. As this part of the cottage luckily fell outwards, the travellers hastily quitted their miserable shelter, and spent half of the night walking in the open air with their musquets upon their shoulders.

If it was dangerous to travel to Gournei, it was a matter no less difficult to leave it, as the boats of the Nile avoided its shore, and the malignity of the villagers had involved it in a war with its neighbours, and particularly with the people of Kamoulé, a village half way to Néguaaté, where a man had been re-

cently murdered. No one could therefore be found who would serve our author in the capacity of a guide, and the sheick himself was afraid to conduct him to Néguaaté. At length, however, a man offered to direct the route, and the sheick furnished horses for a journey, which he was too fearful to undertake. Thus our travellers remained under the protection of a man half naked, walking on foot, and whose inauspicious aspect seemed to forebode some accident, from a meeting with his comrades. By his advice the travellers quitted the plain, in order to avoid Kamoulé, and passed through narrow gorges and irregular windings, among an accumulated heap of rocks, where the guide might have bewildered them, and led them into some ambuscade; but, it seems, the integrity of his heart made an ample amends for his forbidding appearance, as, after a wearisome march of six hours, he conducted his followers safely to a plain near Néguaaté, from whence they crossed over to Kous; while the native of Gournei, well pleased at having escaped his enemies, resolved to avoid an imprudent exposure of his person a second time, and accordingly proceeded with his horses along the eastern shore of the Nile, till he arrived opposite to the place of his residence.

Scarcely had Sonnini arrived at the lodging which he had before occupied at Kous, when Mallum Pactor came to visit him, with all the external marks of friendship, and warmly congratulated him on his relinquishing the journey to Cosseir, as it had been lately discovered that the Turkish merchant had laid a plan to have him robbed upon the road. To this tale he added that Sonnini's interpreter was implicated in this iniquitous plot. Our author, however, paid but little attention to the conversation of a man, with whose treachery he was so perfectly acquainted. The Turkish merchant was now absent from Kous, and Sonnini was well assured that, if the case had been reversed, the Turk would have told a similar story of Pactor, in order to obtain a new present. In such circum-

stances, the European deemed it most prudent to dissemble, as the Copt was a man of interest in his country, and though the protestations of his friendship were of little avail, the effects of his enmity might have been extremely serious.

Quitting Kous on the 23d of July, our author arrived, on the same evening, at Kéné, an inconsiderable town, situated on the eastward of the Nile. It is a place of rendezvous for the caravans that go to Cosseir, as well as of those which return from that part, laden with the rich productions of India and Arabia. It was known to the ancients by the name of Cœnœ, or Cœnopolis ; but it is no longer what it was in former times. No vestige now exists of the canal, by which the waters of the Nile communicated with those of the Arabian Gulf, and rendered the town famous for its commerce ; the monuments with which the ancient city was embellished have all disappeared ; the riches of the people have diminished ; and no trace remains of the industry of its former inhabitants, except a wretched manufacture of earthen ware.

Between Kous and Kéné stands the village Koft, at a small distance from the water-side, near the site of the ancient city Cophtos, which was also rendered a flourishing place by the commerce of the Red Sea. Several authors make this the termination of the canal of the Red Sea, now filled up ; while others imagine it to be near Kéné.

Continuing their voyage down the Nile, the waters of which were now daily swelling and growing thicker, the travellers stopped on the 25th at Reishie, a village on the western bank of the river. From thence they proceeded to the village of Kelbe, on the same side, at the distance of half a league from Sahet, where our author had so warm an altercation with the commanding Mameluke and the master of the kanja. " This," says Sonnini, " was always to be a fatal spot to me. I found it in a state of the greatest fer-

mentation ; whole villages had risen, and refused to pay their tribute, in consequence of the commencement of a war, of which Upper Egypt would probably soon become the theatre. Several of these little districts had armed themselves against the kiaschef of Basjour, who was marching against them. The inhabitants of Kelbe were of the number. Scarcely had we entered their territory, when thirty or forty fellahs came rapidly towards us, with sabres and lances. As we had advanced without distrust, and were unprovided with means of defence against so formidable a body, I was obliged to reason with them, as the only alternative that remained ; and though these people are little susceptible of understanding the language of reason, I soon perceived that they had taken us for followers of the kiaschef, against whom they were in arms ; I had no great trouble to undeceive them, and they at last consented to leave us without further molestation."

The travellers immediately reimbarbed, but were soon exposed to another sort of danger. The wind blowing strong from the northward, increased the roughness of the river, which was already considerable on account of a heavy swell. The course of the river was also confined in this part by a craggy mountain projecting into its bed ; and the waves were so high in the strength of the current, that the little kanja, which had no ballast, had nearly been swamped. At length, however, with much trouble, the mariners reached the foot of the mountain, where they remained in expectation of more favourable weather.

The European and his followers were now off one of the most formidable retreats of banditti in all the country. Several excavations in the rock served them for a habitation and a look-out, from whence they discovered, at a great distance, the objects of their plunder. They, most probably, were aware of the superior strength of the travellers, as they made no attempt to approach ; but their vicinity prevented our

author from visiting the grottoes hewn out of the rock, and which are, in all probability, works of antiquity.

Finding that the wind did not abate, though it was growing dark, and knowing the impracticability of passing the night in so dangerous a situation, the boatmen made a temporary sail of part of their dress, and steered through a heavy swell to Sahet, the port of Farschout and of Basjoura.

The reis went on shore at this place, but hastily returned, to inform our traveller that, in consequence of the confusion which reigned in the district, it would be impossible to remain off Sahet, without being exposed to the danger of assassination. Sonnini sent him back to tell the sheick El Bellad that he was a kiaschef, and therefore expected that proper measures should be taken for the preservation of his safety. In consequence of this message, the commandant came himself, with some men, and spent the whole night in guarding the kanja. At break of day, he sent a complimentary message to the European, accompanied with a slight breakfast; but Sonnini hastened to quit his station, lest the approaching day-light should discover that the pretended kiaschef was destitute of a beard.

After passing the night of the 27th at a considerable village, to the westward of the Nile, called Beliané, in the vicinity of which are some ruins that occupy a large extent of ground, our author proceeded to Girgé, described as the largest city in Egypt, next to Cairo. It is the capital of the Said, the residence of a bey, and of a Coptic bishop, and contains a community of monks of the Propaganda. The houses are of modern but irregular construction; and the city is built upon the shore of the Nile, which is there remarkably steep and lofty. It is distant from Cairo about three hundred miles.

As Sonnini was desirous of knowing whether the monks of Girgé were better disposed than those of

Echmimm and Néguaaté, he waited upon the superior, a good-looking man with a white beard, for whom he had a letter from Cairo. The haughty ecclesiastic contented himself with glancing his eyes at the date of the letter; and perceiving that it was not very recent, he threw the paper in the European's face, exclaiming that it was worth nothing. So great an excess of insolence, shown before many witnesses, inflamed our author's resentment to such a degree that, he affirms, it required no small effort of moderation to enable him to abstain from corporal punishment. The monk, perceiving his violent agitation, took up the letter, and, having perused it, made a thousand apologies, which Sonnini received by turning his back upon him and walking out of the house.

On the morning of the 29th our author quitted Girgé, and after a troublesome passage, occasioned by a violent northerly wind, he reached Menshié, a town where the markets are always well supplied, because the boats that are bound to the north of Egypt are accustomed to put in for a stock of provisions. Ptolemais Hermii, a large and populous city, formerly stood upon this spot; but a few scattered ruins, and a stone dike to confine the waters of the river, are the only remains that Menshié now preserves of its ancient splendour.

Our author now proceeded to Souhajé, where he arrived on the 30th; and on the following day he pursued his journey on horseback, in company with two Arabs, while the boat was ordered to be taken to Tahta, which he also reached in the evening.

This district was far from being in a state of tranquillity, as the fellahs of the surrounding country were rising, and had refused to pay the accustomed taxes. These were joined by some Arabs, from whom tribute-money was likewise demanded; several kiaschefs, who had united their forces, had been recently vanquished by the rebels; the fields were deserted, or completely ravaged; provisions of every sort be-

came the prey of banditti, or hostile troops; all communication was cut off by bands of robbers, who infested the roads; and, in short, desolation reigned over a soil the fertility of which could not be subdued by this barbarous warfare.

The few days passed by our traveller at Tahta were rendered extremely irksome by the agitated state of the country, which confined him, though much against his inclination, to the house; he therefore resolved to continue his route as soon as possible, and accordingly embarked on the 6th of August, in a sort of large lighter, called a masch, which was then ready to quit the village Sheick Zeineiddin, on the bank of the Nile.

About two leagues from Sheick Zeineiddin, on the opposite bank of the river, stands the village of Kous el Kebir, or Kous the Great, so denominated to distinguish it from a smaller village on the western shore. It is situated on the brow of a lofty promontory, and presents to the regretful eye of a traveller the remains of an antique colonnade in tolerable preservation. The territory of the ancient city, supposed by some to have been Antæopolis, or the city of Antæus, and by others Diospolis Minor, was defended from the inundations of the river by a dike constructed of hewn stone, but now greatly dilapidated. At the very edge of the promontory, and beyond the quay, are discernible the remains of a mole that is scarcely covered by the water, and which, extending into the river, rendered this reach exceedingly dangerous. At low water this piece of architecture, which is likewise built of hewn stone, appears above the surface of the stream, and affords a probable presumption that a bridge was formerly erected, at this place, across the Nile.

On the 8th, the travellers beheld a dreadful conflagration in the village Koum el Aras, which was set on fire by a treacherous and cruel company of

Arabs. The vessel then stopped at Aboutigé for some necessary repairs, and Sonnini resolved to proceed from hence to Siout by land.

On the intimation of this design, a Turk, who was an officer in the household of a bey, kindly offered to escort the European; who accordingly accepted of his company, and arrived at Siout in the middle of the day.

During the journey, the Turk was observed to make his servant pick up several pieces of earth, which he immediately ate; and on Sonnini's asking him what was his fancy for so singular a repast, he replied, that an insatiable appetite had rendered it necessary to him, and that nothing could prevent him from gratifying his inclination. This malady seems to be peculiar to the natives of Africa, who are frequently attacked by it; and it is a well-known fact, that the Negroes brought to the West India colonies have sometimes perished from the consequences of this inordinate appetite, after having dragged on a lingering existence, tortured by ineffectual chastisements, and barbarous precautions which they contrived to elude.

On the evening of the 11th our author proceeded to Manfelout, where he was joined by his companions, and on the evening of the 21th they embarked on board a large vessel, called a galioun, or ship, on account of her size, and the ports with which she was pierced for the purpose of carrying guns; her cargo consisted of two thousand five hundred sacks of corn, or the weight of near two hundred and fifty tons, besides a quantity of bales shipped by different people; a hundred men, and a considerable number of cattle. Aftast were built three handsome cabins, one of which was more spacious than the great cabin of the *Atalante* frigate. The aftermost, as being the most pleasant, was appropriated to the use of our author.

After a tedious delay, the vessel set sail on the morning of the 27th, and passed very near the chain

of rocks of Aboufeda, in order to keep in the depth of the stream. On the prominences of the rocks were perched some wild geese. At the extremity of the mountain of Aboufeda, our traveller remarked the ruins of some buildings, cut in the rock, which had escaped his observation when he formerly passed.

Among the persons whom the reis had taken on board, were four villains, who had deserted from the army, and who, having escaped the fatigues of war, set no bounds to their insolence. Having learned that Sonnini and his attendants were Europeans, they more particularly levelled against them their insults and outrage. They even carried their audacity so far as to strike two of the travellers, who, on their part, were not slow in returning the blows. A battle ensued; and the noise reaching our author, he ran up with his sabre in his hand, and with the flat of it applied several strokes to the shoulders of the aggressors. They immediately desisted, but the confusion was instantly succeeded by an universal cry of, "*An Infidel strike a Mussulman!*" This was an unpardonable crime, and the crew talked loudly of throwing the offender into the river; but Sonnini and his companions retired to their cabins, and the fire-arms with which they were provided appeared sufficiently formidable to their adversaries to keep them at bay, and they accordingly contented themselves with murmuring and concerting revenge.

From the cabin windows our author perceived, at Sheick Abadé, the ruins of Antinoopolis; and upon the same side of the river was seen the village Benihassan, situated at the foot of a perpendicular rocky mountain, in which the ancients had dug sepulchral chambers. Lower down, an agreeable contrast was formed to the rugged aspect of the rocks, by a beautiful forest of palm trees, and at the village of Savouad are to be seen some ruins of ancient edifices.

On the arrival of the vessel at Miniet, the reis im-

mediately landed with several of his passengers, and ran to the kiaschef, to complain that Sonnini had had the assurance to strike a Mahometan. Those malicious people took care to relate the event with several aggravating circumstances, to every person they met. The populace of Miniet accordingly collected, and called aloud for the head of the *dog* who had insulted the servant of their prophet. In this situation of affairs, our author quitted the bark with one of his people, and passed through the streets to the house of the kiaschef, who, it seems, had promised to punish the aggressor with the bastinado on the soles of his feet. On his arrival, the reis and the other accusers pointed him out to the commandant, who was surrounded by a great concourse of people. "It is thou, then," said the kiaschef in a menacing voice, "who hast dared to strike a faithful Mussulman." "Pay no attention," answered our author in a firm tone, "to the silly clamours of these ignorant *fellabs*, to which, for the honour of a valiant Mameluke, thou hast already listened too long. Thou art the slave of Murad Bey; thou knowest that I am his friend; I have matters of the utmost importance to communicate to thee from him, and to which I beg thou wilt attend." Sonnini then approached him, and, pretending to whisper, slipped a few sequins into his hand; when the kiaschef, who had raised himself a little from his cushion, for the purpose of listening, again resumed his seat, and darted the most menacing looks at the confounded reis. "Knowest thou," said he, in a feigned, or at least purchased rage, "the consequence of a Frank?" He then proceeded with a long dissertation on the power and virtues of the Franks, of whom he was himself perfectly ignorant. The reis attempted to reply; but the kiaschef gave him a box on the ear, and afterwards ordered him to be caned. In an instant the ignorant mob, stupidly fitted for despotism, dispersed to their respective ha-

bitations, praising the justice of the commandant, and extolling the good qualities of the *Franks*.

Notwithstanding the public protection of the kiaschef, our author deemed it imprudent to trust himself again on board a vessel in which he had received such scandalous treatment. The four deserters were indeed apprehended, but much evil might be rationally expected from the enraged reis and his fanatical companions. The kiaschef, however, insisted that the European should not put himself to any inconvenience, and swore by the prophet, that he should experience nothing unpleasant in the continuation of his voyage. Two officers of the commandant's household were accordingly ordered to reconduct our traveller to the vessel, and to inform the reis that, unless his conduct towards Sonnini was suitable to the respect due to a favourite of Murad Bey, his life would inevitably be the forfeit of his misbehaviour. Orders were again given at the same time to some Mameluke officers, embarked in another vessel, to take care that the traveller received no insult. Having taken these precautions, our author quitted the shore of Miniet, and had no occasion during the remainder of the voyage to have recourse to the destined auxiliaries.

At some distance below Miniet, the chain of mountains to the eastward of the Nile projects into the river in high and perpendicular masses of rock, that renders the current extremely narrow and rapid. On the brow of one of these dismal eminences the Copts have erected a monastery.

On the evening of the 30th, the travellers stopped near a spot covered with date trees. This natural grove would have been accounted pleasant in any part of the world, but in the vicinity of hideous and steril mountains it was truly delightful. As soon as the boatman had cast anchor, the Mamelukes on board the other vessel came to inquire whether Sonnini had any cause of complaint, and insisted that

the reis should make an apology for his insolence. Our author received his excuses with disdain, but was indeed highly gratified to see a man humbled in his presence, who had endeavoured to injure him in so serious a manner.

Continuing the voyage down the Nile, the mariners sailed on the 31st along a chain of high rocks, which seemed to have experienced some convulsion of nature. On their brow stands a chapel, which indicates that a Mussulman saint is buried on the spot, under the name of Sheick Embarck.

Our author passed by Feshné, a town on the western bank of the river. It gives its name to an adjacent mountain, which renders the navigation of the river peculiarly dangerous in that part, because, having experienced a shock of an earthquake, several masses of rock have been detached from it, and have fallen into the river.

On the 1st of September the travellers were detained off Bebé by a dead calm; but on the following day they resumed their voyage.

Opposite to Bousch, the chain of mountains to the east rounds off in a projecting point, and becomes more elevated than the adjacent parts of the same chain. This point is in a manner bleached, particularly in the places exposed to the current of the water, where its surface is of a shining white. It is called Dsjebel Guypse, or the Mountain of Lime; and in fact there is here extracted a quantity of lime, that is conveyed to Cairo in barges of a peculiar construction.

Towards evening the mariners anchored off a village called Meimoum, which is situated at some distance from the bank of the river. Opposite to Meimoum, on the eastern bank, is an old Coptic convent, and lower down is a rocky point, known by the name of Dsjebel Nauti, or the Sailor's Mountain, because an Egyptian sailor is there buried, who was canonized by his comrades.

Scarcely had the first glimmerings of day begun to revisit the earth, on the 4th of the month, when the impatience of the crew to reach Cairo induced them to set the two immense sails of their vessel. They had passed the night at the distance of half a league from Old Cairo, opposite to a Coptic monastery, and soon arrived at the Egyptian capital; but Sonnini did not revisit his countrymen in that city, having a strong recollection of the tedium he experienced on a former occasion, and finding the environs in the greatest confusion, owing to the encampments and warlike preparations of the beys. He therefore passed hastily through a horde of undisciplined combatants, and repaired to Boulac, where he was in hopes of meeting with a conveyance by water to Rosetta; but all the boats were retained for the service of the army. At length, however, he met with a reis, who had left his kanja at Beissous, a village below Boulac, under the apprehension that it might be put in requisition. The travellers therefore went by land to the village Schoubra, and from thence proceeded in a skiff to embark in the kanja.

On the evening of the 6th of September our author quitted Beissous. The moon shone with unclouded brightness upon the water, the vessel glided slowly along between two low and muddy shores, where mariners incur no danger, and the passengers enjoyed a sweet tranquillity, to which for several months they had been entire strangers. They were no longer harassed by those serious alarms which incessantly beset them during their travels in the Said, and their fire-arms were a sufficient protection against such pirates as sometimes infest these parts of the Nile. They had likewise the satisfaction of knowing the reis to be a person of unshaken integrity, and after a pleasant run of about ten hours they arrived safely at Rosetta.

As the Ramadan, or feast of the Mussulmen, commenced this year on the 22d of September, Son-

nini had an opportunity of remarking the ceremony of its opening on the preceding evening at Rosetta. "All the tradesmen assemble," says he, "in companies, and march in procession, through the town, by the light of kindled chips of resinous wood, contained in iron pots, carried upon the end of long sticks. The head of each corporation is mounted upon a fine horse, and clothed in an extraordinary dress. Several also wore masks, which were loudly applauded by the populace; but they were particularly enthusiastic in their expressions of approbation, when the chief nightman appeared in the habit of an European." "This fact," adds Sonnini, "may give a just idea of the degree of consideration we enjoy in their country."

During the month set apart for the observance of the Ramadan, eating and drinking are not only forbidden from sunrise to sunset, but the use of tobacco is as severely prohibited. The labourer, oppressed by heat, and nearly overcome with fatigue and extreme thirst, is consequently ready to faint from inanition; but in Egypt, as well as in any other country, the man of opulence evades the law that is incompatible with his convenience, and claims a scandalous exemption from the sufferings of the helpless and indigent. If the Ramadan is a period of abstinence very difficult to be endured by the working man, it is an interval of pleasure to the rich, who make of it both a lent and a carnival. Immediately after sunset, feasting, dancing, shows, and music occupy the place of every street, and sleep kindly intervenes, to prevent the sons of affluence from perceiving the length of the day.

After spending a few days with his friends at Rosetta, our author repaired to Alexandria, where he resumed his native dress, and soon after availed himself of an opportunity of proceeding to Greece and Turkey, in a coasting vessel that was preparing to sail for Smyrna. Exclusive of one person, who was

peculiarly attached to him, he took leave of all his companions, whose mission was to terminate with his travels in Egypt; and on the 17th of October 1778 he quitted the new port of Alexandria, and soon lost sight of that famous country, where the prodigies of art seem to vie with the miracles of nature, and in which he certainly exerted himself to the utmost, in order to investigate and ascertain such particulars as we have already laid before our readers. As a *politician*, we have totally avoided his opinions and remarks, but as a *traveller*, we have endeavoured to give the most ample account that our limits would permit of his researches; and flatter ourselves that they will meet a favourable reception, in their abridged state, from the sons of science and admirers of history.



TRAVELS
IN
UPPER AND LOWER EGYPT,
BY
VIVANT DENON.

TRANSLATED FROM THE FRENCH.

THE author of the following travels, a member of the French National Institute, as well as of the Institute at Cairo, and an excellent draftsman, was selected to accompany the expedition under the command of Bonaparte, destined for the conquest of Egypt, that under the protection of a military escort he might have an opportunity of examining those stupendous remains and eternal documents of the ancient civilization of this country, which was nearly impossible for an individual European, as well from its then unsettled state as from the savage barbarism of its inhabitants. He returned with Bonaparte to France, and soon after published his work, containing a very interesting account of Egypt, its inhabitants, manners, produce, and remains of antiquity; interspersed with a journal of the campaign. The last of these objects being foreign to the great object of this work, we shall pass them over very slightly, to enable us fully, and as much as possible in the author's own language, to detail the particulars respecting the country.

On the 14th of May 1798, Mr. Denon embarked at Toulon on board the frigate *La Juno*, and sailed with the fleet, which reached the coast of Egypt on

the 29th of June, and by noon on the 2d of July were under the walls of Alexandria, of the storming of which city an account is given.

It would be impossible, says Denon, to describe what I felt on landing at Alexandria. Every thing was new to our sensations ; the soil, the form of the buildings, the persons, the customs, and language of the inhabitants. The first prospect which presented itself to our view was an extensive burying-ground, covered with innumerable tomb-stones of white marble, on a white soil. Among these monuments were seen wandering several meagre women, with long tattered garments, resembling so many ghosts. The silence was only interrupted by the screeching of the kites which hovered over this sanctuary of death. We passed thence into narrow and deserted streets.

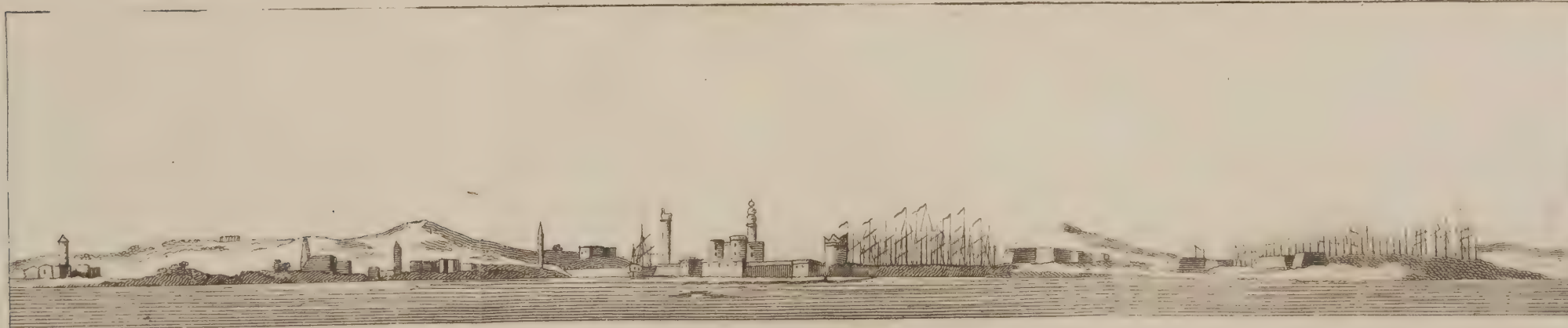
During the whole of my progress through this long and melancholy city, Europe and its gaiety were brought to my recollection only by the chirping and activity of the sparrows. I could not recognise the dog, the friend of man, the faithful and generous companion, the gay and loyal courtier. Here this animal is a dull and selfish brute, a stranger to the master beneath whose roof he dwells, and, separated from the inmates without ceasing to be a slave, loses sight of him whose asylum he defends, and on whose bleeding carcass he feeds without abhorrence.

On the 4th, in the morning, I accompanied the commander in chief, who visited the forts, that is to say, a collection of clumsy buildings in a ruinous state, in which worn-out guns rested on stones that served them for carriages.

We passed near Pompey's pillar. This monument is in the predicament of almost every thing famous, which loses on a near scrutiny. It was named Pompey's pillar in the fifteenth century, when learning began to recover itself from the torpid state in which it had so long languished. At that epoch, men of science, but not observers, bestowed names on all the



BIRDS EYE VIEW OF ABOUKIR.



ALEXANDRIA FROM THE NORTH.

monuments; and these names have been handed down by tradition, and without being disputed, from century to century. A monument had been raised to Pompey at Alexandria: it had disappeared, and was thought to be recovered in this pillar or column, which has since been converted into a trophy erected to the memory of Septimius Severus. It is, however, placed on the ruins of the ancient city, and in the time of Septimius Severus the city of the Ptolemies was not in a ruinous state. To support this column by a solid foundation, an obelisk has been sunk in the earth, on which is placed a very clumsy pedestal, having a fine shaft, and surmounted by a Corinthian capital of bad workmanship.

In returning from Pompey's pillar to the modern city, we passed through that of the Arabs, or rather the one which was encompassed by their walls, for at this time it is merely a desert containing a few enclosures, which, during the months of the inundation, are gardens, and which at other times afford nourishment to a greater or smaller number of trees and vegetables, in proportion to the size of the cistern with which each is provided. The cistern is the source and principle of their existence: when it fails, the gardens are once more converted into sand and rubbish.

At the gate of each of these gardens are to be seen monuments of a benevolent and charitable feeling. These are reservoirs into which water is pumped as often as it is necessary, and which present to the way-worn traveller what is needful to satisfy his thirst, the most pressing want in this burning climate.

Our attention was attracted by a ruin of a reddish hue, which the catholics call the house of St. Catherine the learned, relative to whom they have a tradition, that she was wedded to Jesus Christ four centuries after his death. This ruin is of Roman construction; and the conduits, covered by stalactites, imply that it was formerly a bath.

We came afterwards to the obelisk, named Cleopatra's needle; another obelisk thrown down at its side, indicates that both of them formerly decorated one of the entrances of the palace of the Ptolemies, the ruins of which are still to be seen at a little distance. An inspection into the present state of these obelisks, and the fissures which existed at the time even when they were fixed on this spot, prove that they were merely fragments at that period, and that they had been brought from Memphis, or from Upper Egypt. They might be conveyed to France without difficulty, and would there become a trophy of conquest, and a very characteristic one, as they are in themselves a monument, and as the hieroglyphics with which they are covered render them preferable to Pompey's pillar, which is merely a column, somewhat larger indeed than is everywhere to be found.

On examining the Saracen monument in the vicinity of Cleopatra's needle, I found that its foundations belonged to a Greek or Roman edifice. The capitals of connected columns, of the Doric order, the shafts of which are sunk below the level of the sea, are still to be seen. Strabo has observed, that the base of the palace of Ptolemy was washed by the sea. These ruins may at one and the same time prove the veracity of Strabo's relation, and ascertain the site of that palace.

In returning to the lower part of the harbour by the sea-shore, ruins of edifices of different ages are to be found, having suffered alike from time and from the waves. Vestiges of baths may be there distinguished, several apartments of which still exist, having been posteriorly cut out of walls of more remote antiquity. These edifices appeared to me to be of Arabic construction; and for their preservation, a kind of pile work in columns has been made, which has now the resemblance of floating batteries. Their immense number evinces the magnificence of the

palaces they once decorated. After having passed the extremity of the harbour, large Saracen edifices are met with, having an air of grandeur, and a mixture of style, by which the observer is perplexed. Friezes ornamented with Doric triglyphs, and surmounted by arched vaults, would lead one to imagine that these edifices were constructed from antique fragments blended together by the Saracens into the general style of their architecture. The doors of these edifices may give an idea of the indestructible quality of the sycamore wood, which has remained unaltered, while the iron work of the doors has yielded to time, and entirely disappeared. Behind this kind of fortress are Arabian baths most magnificently decorated.

Near these baths, one of the principal mosques, formerly a primitive church dedicated to Saint Athanasius, is situated. This edifice, in as ruinous a state as its style is magnificent, may give some idea of the carelessness of the Turks relative to the objects of which they are the most jealous.

In the middle of the court-yard of this mosque is a small octagonal temple, which contains a bowl of Egyptian black marble, with white and yellow spots, of incomparable beauty, both on account of the substance of which it is formed, and of the innumerable hieroglyphical figures with which it is covered, both withinside and without. This monument, which is without doubt a sarcophagus of ancient Egypt, may be considered as a very valuable antique, and as one of our most precious spoils in Egypt.

Close to the mosque are three upright columns, which have not been noticed by any traveller. It would appear by the delicate workmanship of these columns, that they constituted a part of some antique monuments.

Thence we proceeded to the gate of Rosetta, which is fortified. Here a group of houses forms a kind of town, which leaves an unoccupied space of half a

league between this part of the city and that which is in the vicinity of the ports. All the horrors of war still existed in this quarter, where I met with an incident which afforded me the strongest contrast possible. A young woman, fair and with a ruddy complexion, was seated, surrounded by the dead and by the rubbish, on a fragment of a ruin still covered with blood. She was the picture of the angel of the resurrection. When, attracted by a compassionate feeling, I testified my surprise at finding her in this forlorn state, she told me with a charming ingenuousness, that she was waiting for her husband, with whom she was going to pass the night in the Desert. To her this was no difficulty: she was about to repair thither to sleep, with as little reluctance as if a down bed was to be her portion.

Having obtained possession of Alexandria, Bonaparte immediately proceeded with his army to the interior of the country.

On the second day's march of our troops, some of the soldiers, in passing near Beda, in the Desert, met with a young woman whose face was covered with blood. In one of her arms she held an infant: approaching, they heard the sobs of this wretched female, whom cruelty had deprived of her sight. Astonished at seeing her in this sad condition, and accompanied by an infant, in the midst of a desert, they questioned her, and learned that the shocking spectacle which they had in view was the result of jealousy. The victim did not dare to murmur, but offered up prayers for the innocent babe which partook of her misfortunes, and which was about to perish through misery and want. Our soldiers, moved by pity, instantly gave her a part of their rations. They had just deprived themselves of their small portion of water, which was extremely scarce, when they saw a madman approach, who, feasting his sight on the spectacle of his revenge, snatched from the woman the bread and water she held in her hands, the last sources of existence which compas-

sion had just granted to misery. "Forbear!" he exclaimed: "she has forfeited her own honour, and "has tarnished mine. That infant is my opprobrium; it is the offspring of guilt." Our soldiers endeavoured to resist his depriving the female of the succours they had just afforded her; when his jealousy was inflamed, because the object of his fury was also become an object of pity. He drew a poniard, with which he gave his wife a mortal stab; and, seizing the infant, held it in the air, and dashed it lifeless on the ground. Then, with an air of ferocious stupidity, he stood motionless, looking steadfastly at those who surrounded him, and braving their vengeance.

I inquired whether there were any laws to repress so atrocious an abuse of authority. I was told, that this man had *done wrong* to stab his wife, because, if God had vouchsafed to spare her life, this wretched creature might, at the expiration of forty days, have been received into a house, and kept on charity.

The particulars of the march of the army, their victory over a body of Mamelukes, and their dangerous navigation on the Nile, it is unnecessary to detail; suffice it to say, that, after many difficulties and privations, they reached Rosetta.

Raschid, which the Europeans have named Rosetta, or Rosset, stands on the Bolbitine branch of the Nile, and near its mouth, at no great distance from the ruins of the ancient city of Bolbitinum, which must have been situated on an elbow of that river, where at present stands the convent of Abumandur, at half a league's distance from Rosetta.

Leo Africanus says, that Raschid was built by a governor of Egypt, during the empire of the caliphs. The population of this city, as well as that of Alexandria, diminishes daily. The houses, in general better constructed than those of Alexandria, are notwithstanding so slight, that were they not favoured by the climate, which destroys nothing, not one of them would long be left standing at Rosetta. The

stories, which project one over the other, at length nearly touch; and this renders the streets very dismal and obscure. The houses situated on the bank of the Nile are not subject to this inconvenience; the greater part of them belong to foreign merchants. These houses, independently of having the advantage of a view of the river, have also the delightful prospect of the Delta, and an island of about a league in breadth, possessing all the beauties of a well cultivated garden.

I remarked, that the inhabitants of the left bank of the Nile, that is to say, of the Delta, were more sociable and civilized than the others; the cause of which is, in my opinion, to be ascribed to the enjoyment of a greater plenty, and to the absence of the Bedouin Arabs, who, as they never cross the river, leave them in a state of tranquillity, to which those on the other side are totally strangers.

On investigating the causes, we are almost invariably less disposed to inveigh against the effects. Is it possible to urge as so many reproaches against the Arabs who cultivate the land, that they are sullen, mistrustful, avaricious, improvident, and careless about the future, when it is considered that, independently of the exactions of the proprietor of the land which they till, and those of the covetous bey, and of the sheik and Mamelukes, a wandering enemy in arms watches unceasingly the favourable opportunity to snatch from the industrious Arab, whatever superfluities he may venture to display? The money which he can hide, and which is a representative of every enjoyment, is therefore all that he can truly consider as belonging to him. Accordingly the art of burying it in the earth is his principal study; and even when he has accomplished this, he is not without his apprehensions. By appearing before his masters in rags and tatters, and with a studied display of wretchedness, he can alone hope to secure from the grasp of their avidity what he has hoarded



BEDOUIN ARABS.

together. It behoves him to inspire pity ; and not to commiserate his lot would be to denounce him. Anxious to amass his dangerous wealth, and unhappy when in the possession of it, his life is spent between the disappointment which results from not having procured it, and the subsequent dread of seeing it snatched from him.

Envy, that torment from which the abode of want itself is not exempt, hovers also over the burning sands of the Desert. The Bedouins, in waging war against all the nations of the universe, confine their hatred and their envy to the Bedouins alone who do not belong to their tribe. To them all wars are alike ; and as soon as the tranquillity of Egypt is disturbed, either by an intestine quarrel, or by a foreign enemy, they take the field. Without attaching themselves to either party, they take advantage of the contest to plunder both. Wherever booty is, there the Bedouins behold an enemy. Never backward to treat, because all the stipulations made with them are accompanied by presents, they are true to no other engagement than that which necessity imposes. They are, however, neither cruel nor vindictive. The French whom they have made prisoners, in describing the hardships they suffered during their captivity, considered them rather as the effect of the mode of living adopted by this nation, than as the result of their barbarity. Several of our officers who had fallen into their hands have told me, that the labour which was required of them was neither cruel nor excessive : they had to attend on the women, and to load and drive the asses and camels. It is true that it was necessary to encamp and decamp continually, for which purpose all the camp equipage was kept packed up, and in less than a quarter of an hour the cavalcade was in motion. This equipage consisted of a mill to grind the corn and coffee, of a round iron plate, on which to bake the flat cakes, of a large coffee-pot, a small one, a few dried goatskins

to hold the water, a few sacks of corn, and the tent cloth, in which all these articles were wrapped. A handful of roasted corn, and a dozen of dates, were the customary ration on the marching days, accompanied by a small allowance of water, which, on account of its scarcity, had been applied to every other purpose before it was employed to allay the thirst.

The Bedouins, destitute of religious prejudices, and without any external form of worship, are friends to toleration. Among them a few revered customs supply the place of laws; and their principles bear the resemblance of virtues which answer all the purposes of their partial associations, and of their paternal government.

I shall here cite a trait of their hospitality. A French officer had been several months prisoner to a chief of the Arabs, whose camp was surprised in the night by our cavalry, and who had barely time to escape, his tents, cattle, and provisions, having fallen into our hands. On the following day, fugitive, solitary, and without any resources, he drew from his pocket a cake, and presenting the half of it to his prisoner, said to him, "I do not know when we shall have any more food; but I shall not be accused of having refused to share my last morsel with one whom I esteem as my friend."

Having proceeded to punish the inhabitants of a village at the Nile, who had plundered the French vessels and murdered the crew, we established an ordinary post at Salmie, in concert with the neighbouring districts, and concluded our expedition by making a circuit through the country. In all the villages that we came to, we met with a reception which went beyond the practice of the feudal system. We were received by the principal personage of the country, who laid the inhabitants under contribution for our maintenance.

A house of public entertainment, which had almost invariably belonged to the Mameluke, heretofore the

lord and master of the village, was furnished in a moment, according to the fashion of the country, with mats, carpets, and cushions. A number of attendants, in the first place, brought in perfumed water, pipes, and coffee. Half an hour afterwards a carpet was spread, and on the outer part three or four different kinds of bread and cakes were laid in heaps, the centre being covered with small dishes of fruits, sweetmeats, creams, &c. the greater part of them pretty good, and very highly perfumed. This was considered but as a slight repast, which was over in a few minutes. In the course, however, of two hours, the same carpet was covered afresh with large loaves, immense dishes of rice, either boiled in milk, or in a rich gravy soup; halves of sheep badly roasted, large quarters of veal, boiled heads of different animals, and fifty or sixty other dishes, all crowded together, consisting of highly-seasoned ragouts, vegetables, jellies, sweetmeats, and honey in the comb. There were neither chairs, plates, spoons, forks, drinking-glasses, nor napkins: each of the guests, squatted on the ground, took up the rice in his fingers, tore the meat in pieces with his nails, dipped the bread in the ragouts, and wiped his hands and lips with a slice of bread. The water was served in a pot; and he who did the honours of the table took the first draught. In the same way, he was the first to taste the different dishes, as well to prevent his guests from harbouring any suspicions of him, as to show them how strong an interest he took in their safety, and how high a value he set on their persons. The napkins were not brought until after dinner, when each of the guests washed his hands. He was then sprinkled over with rose water, and the pipes and coffee produced.

When our repast was ended, our places were occupied by the natives of the second class, who were very soon succeeded by others. From a motive of religion a poor beggar was admitted: next came the attendants; and lastly, all those who chose to partake,

until nothing was left. If these repasts cannot boast the convenience of ours, and the elegance by which the appetite is whetted, it is impossible not to be struck by the abundance, by the frank hospitality that they display, and by the sobriety of the guests, who, notwithstanding there are so many dishes, do not remain more than ten minutes at table.

Here follows an account of the battle of the Nile, which we shall pass over as being very inaccurate, and our readers being in possession of the correct statements from the London Gazette and otherwise, and likewise as it does not fall within the plan of the present work.

The author now took the opportunity of joining a caravan, to go in quest of the ruins of Canopus.

A considerable number of the native inhabitants had joined the escort of the caravan; and when on quitting the city at the close of the evening, it began to spread itself over the yellow and sleek surface of the sandy hillocks which surround Rosetta, it produced the most striking and picturesque effect imaginable. The groups of soldiers, those of the merchants in their different costumes, sixty laden camels, an equal number of Arab guides, the horses, asses, foot-travellers, and a few instruments of military music, gave the animated semblance of one of the finest pictures of Benedetto, or of Salvator Rosa. As soon as we had descended the hillocks, and passed the palm-trees, we entered a vast desert, the horizontal line of which is broken by a few small brick monuments alone, intended to prevent the traveller from losing himself in the wide expanse, and without which the smallest error in the opening of the angle would bring him, by a lengthened line, into a direction very different from the one that he meant to take. We proceeded, amid the silence of the Desert and of the night, over incrustations of salt, which gave some small degree of solidity to the moving sands, our cavalcade being preceded by a detachment of soldiers.

Next came the travellers, then the beasts of burden, and, lastly, another detachment to protect the convoy from the Bedouin Arabs, who, when they are not in sufficient force to attack in front, sometimes carry off the stragglers within twenty paces of the rear of the caravan.

We reached the sea-side at midnight, when the rising moon lighted up a new scene. The shore, to the extent of four leagues, was covered by wrecks, which enabled us to form an estimate of the loss that we had sustained at the battle of Aboukir.

About sun-rise, the caravan stopping, apprised me that we were at the edge of the lake which separates the plain of the Desert from the peninsula, at the extremity of which Aboukir is built. This deep and extensive lake is the ancient Canopic branch which the Nile has abandoned, and the banks of which have been forced back, and its bed enlarged by the pressure of the sea, which has found a ready entrance. This encroachment on the lake, which is daily gaining ground, threatens to destroy the isthmus which attaches Aboukir to the main land, and over which the canal flows that conveys the water to Alexandria. The Arabian princes attempted to throw up a mound, which was never finished, or which, not having sufficient solidity, yielded to the efforts of the waves, impelled during a part of the year by the northerly winds. At present there are no other remains of this mound than two piers, one on each bank.

After having crossed the mouth of the lake, by following two small openings skirted by sandy hillocks, I at length reached the suburb of Aboukir, which bears a great resemblance to the city, from which it is separated by a distance of about a hundred and fifty paces: the city and suburb, taken together, may consist of from forty to fifty bad houses in a ruinous state, intersecting the peninsula, at the extremity of which the fortress stands. At a distance

this fortress has a respectable appearance; the bastions would, however, fall-in on the third discharge of the culverins which are placed on the ramparts, and which are in a very neglected state: one of them, a brass piece, carries a fifty-pound ball.

In the embrasure of the outer gate of the fortress I found four large stones of dark green porphyry, and two long stones of the most compact statuary granite. At the inner gate I found, together with four other stones, a fragment of Doric entablature, having triglyphs of a large size and fine execution. These fragments, and a few vestiges of foundations at the point of the rock, are the only antiquities that I could discover at Aboukir, the site of which can never have undergone any alteration, since the soil is a calcareous level which rises above the bed of the sea, and which is attached to the main land by an isthmus too narrow to have allowed a considerable city to have been built there. There is, therefore, every reason to suppose that this was the fort or castle, facing the sea of Canopus, or of Heraclea, which Strabo places at or near this spot. Before I reached Aboukir, at half a league's distance, I had passed in front of the cisterns, the construction of which had been praised to me. I returned thither, and could find nothing besides three square wells of Arabian structure, surrounded by heights which certainly contain ruins, and on which a large quantity of fragments of earthen pots are heaped together, blended with the sand of the Desert which the wind has carried thither.

On the following day I proceeded with a detachment along the western coast, examining all the sinuosities and the smallest eminences. In Lower Egypt the latter almost invariably contain antiquities, by the aggregation of which they were originally formed. After a search of three quarters of an hour, I found at the bottom of the second creek a small pier formed of colossal fragments. I felt an inexpressible pleasure on

perceiving, in the first instance, a fragment of a hand, the first phalanx of which, fourteen inches in length, belonged to a statue thirty-six feet in height. The granite, workmanship, and style of this fragment left no doubt in my mind but that it belonged to the earliest period of the Egyptians. By the disposition of this hand, as well as by several fragments in its vicinity, and by the mere habit of examining Egyptian statues, the posture of which is so little varied, it is easy to recognise in this fragment an Isis holding a nilometer. Near it are several fragments of architecture, the dimensions of which evince that they once belonged to a capacious and handsome edifice of the Doric order. These ruins have for several centuries been washed by the waves, without having been disfigured; insomuch that it would appear to be the lot of Egyptian monuments of every description to resist alike the ravages of time and of man. Nearer to the sea-side, and surrounded by the fragments of this colossal statue, is a statue of a sphinx, the head and forelegs of which are mutilated, as far as the petrified plants and small shells with which they were encrusted would enable me to judge. Its style attests that it is the work of a Greek sculptor. It is not of granite, but of a free-stone which resembles white marble, and which has a transparency not to be met with in this substance out of Egypt. Its height is thirteen or fourteen feet. At some distance, amid fragments of entablatures similar to those which I have already described, is another statue of Isis, sufficiently well preserved to allow its position and attitude when standing to be ascertained: its legs are broken, but the fragments are by its side. This statue is of granite, and is ten feet in height. All these antique statues and fragments appear to have been placed on this spot to form a pier, and to serve as a breaker for an edifice which has been since destroyed, and which, if an opinion can be formed from its foundations, must

have been a sea-bath, the plan of which is still to be traced in the intersected rock. The part which is not covered by the sea has conduits for the water, constructed in brick, over which cement and pouzzolana have been laid.

At a distance of nearly half a mile, proceeding inland, and approaching Alexandria, are several foundations constructed in brick, the plan of which cannot be perfectly made out, but which, from several fragments of buildings well executed, appear to have belonged to edifices of some importance. Near them are several Corinthian capitals in marble, too much decayed to be measured, but which must have appertained to bases of the same substance: the columns to which they belonged must have been twenty inches in diameter. Further on are a great number of fragments of columns of rose-coloured granite, fluted, and all of them of the same size, of the same substance, and wrought with the same care, being incontestably the ruins of a large and superb temple of the Doric order. From the accounts which Strabo has transmitted to us relative to this part of Egypt, and from what I have just described, more particularly the latter fragments, I had not the smallest doubt but that these were the ruins of Canopus, and those of its temple, built by the Greeks, the worship of which vied with that of Lampsacus; of that miraculous temple, in which old men recovered their youth, and the sick their health.

The soil has preserved none of the luxuriousness of the site of ancient Canopus. A few hillocks of sand and ruins in brick, large square blocks of granite, without hieroglyphics, and without any determinate shape to attest to what kind of edifices and to what age they belonged; and lastly, a few small valleys, as barren as the heights by which they are formed, are all that remain of a city, once so delightful, the site of which has now a wild and dismal aspect. In



A MAMELUKE IN FULL DRESS

short, that city, the seat of voluptuous delights, to which the votaries of pleasure resorted, is now become a desert, frequented by the jackals and the Bedouin Arabs. I did not encounter any of the latter ; but I met with a jackal, which I should have taken for a dog, if I had not had an opportunity to examine very minutely his pointed nose, his erected ears, his length of tail sweeping the ground, and his coat of fur like that of the fox, to whom he has a greater resemblance than to the wolf, notwithstanding the jackal is considered as the wolf of Africa. The same night I returned to Rosetta. It was the anniversary of the birth of Mahomet ; which festival having been proclaimed, the city was illuminated, and hymns of piety blended with those of rejoicing and gratitude.

After supper we were invited to repair to the quarter of the first civil magistrate, in the front of whose house we found all the preparations for a Turkish festival. The street was the assembly-room, which was lengthened or contracted according to the number of guests. An alcove covered with carpeting was occupied by the distinguished personages. Fires, combined with a number of small lamps and large tapers, formed a whimsical illumination. On one side was a band of martial music, consisting of shortsqueaking hautboys, small kettle drums, and large Albanese drums. On the other were stationed violins and singers ; and, in the middle, Greek dancers ; and attendants provided with sweetmeats, coffee, syrups, rose-water, and pipes.

As soon as we were seated the martial music commenced. A kind of leader of the band played alternately two different airs, which the other musicians repeated in chorus. Whether it was owing to the calmness of the atmosphere, or to a wish of introducing too many flourishes into it, it so happened that the second measure was a true cacophony, a discordance of harsh sounds, as disagreeable to nice

ears as it was enchanting to those of the Arabs. I noticed particularly, that the leader of the band invariably took up each of the airs with all the importance and enthusiasm of an inspired *improvisatore*, and that, when his nerves appeared to be no longer able to support the energy of expression which he endeavoured to bestow on it, the chorus came to his aid with the same unvaried dissonance. The violins, which were more tolerable, afterwards played an air, in the burden of which a small portion of melody was overcome by superfluous ornaments. The nasal twangs of an inspired singer were superadded to the fastidious softness of the semi-tones of the violins. After this couplet, the violins took up the same strain with new variations, which the singer disguised by a sharp movement, until he had entirely lost sight of the air, falling into the wild expression of sounds without harmony and without principle. The dance which followed was of the same description with the singing: it was not the expression of joy, or of gaiety, but of an extravagant pleasure, which made hasty strides towards lasciviousness; and this was the more disgusting, as the performers, all of them of the male sex, presented in the most indecent way scenes which love has reserved for the two sexes in the silence and mystery of the night.

I remarked how easy it was to distinguish, in the variety of figures, the different races of the individuals who compose the population of Rosetta. I accordingly fancied that I could distinguish in the Copts the ancient Egyptian stock, a description of swarthy Nubians, such as we see them represented on old sculptures, with flat foreheads, eyes half closed and raised up at the angles, high cheek-bones, a very short broad and flat nose, a large flattened mouth placed at a considerable distance from the nose, thick lips, little beard, a shapeless body, crooked legs, without any expression in the contour, and long flat toes. Ignorance, drunkenness, cunning, and finesse,



AN EGYPTIAN LADY

are the moral qualities by which these ancient possessors of Egypt are characterized. Under the late government they were the agents and brokers of the beys and kiaschefs, whom they plundered daily. What they had thus obtained was, however, merely held *in trust*, as they were made by a fine to restore in bulk what they had amassed in detail. It was on this account that the art which they employed in concealing what they had acquired, was greater than the impudence that they had displayed in its acquisition.

After the Copts come the Arabs, the most numerous of the inhabitants of modern Egypt. Without possessing an influence proportioned to their numbers, they seem to be placed there to people the country, to cultivate the lands, to tend the flocks, or to be themselves in the degraded state of animals. They are, however, lively, and have a penetrating physiognomy. Their eyes, which are sunk-in and overarched, are replete with vivacity and character; all their proportions are angular; their beard is short and hanging in filaments; their lips are thin and open, displaying fine teeth; their arms are fleshy; and in other respects they are more active than handsome, and more muscular than well shaped. Three classes of these people, altogether different from each other, are, however, to be distinguished. First, the Arab shepherd, who seems to belong to the original stock, and who resembles the description I have just given. Next, the Bedouin Arab, on whom a more exalted independence, and the state of warfare in which he lives, have bestowed a character of savage ferocity. Lastly, the Arab cultivator, the most civilized, the most corrupted, the most degraded, in consequence of the state of bondage in which he is held, and the most varied in person and in character, as may be remarked in the heads of the sheiks or chiefs of villages, in those of the fellahs or peasants, in those of the boufackirs or beggars, and, finally, in

those of the artisans, who constitute the most abject class.

The beauties of the Turks are more dignified, and their shape more delicate. Their thick eyelids allow but little expression to the eyes : the nose is thick ; the mouth and lips handsome ; the beard long and bushy ; the complexion less swarthy ; and the neck plump. In all their gestures and motions of the body they are dull and heavy ; and this solemnity of gait, which, notwithstanding the nullity of their authority, inspires a certain degree of awe, they mistake for dignity. They possess a beauty which cannot be defined, or a reason given why it should be considered as such. This is not the case with the Greeks, who must be classed among the foreigners, by whom societies distinct from those of the indigenous inhabitants are formed. The fine delineations of their form, their arch and penetrating eyes, and the delicacy and flexibility of their traits, bring to the remembrance all that the imagination has figured to itself relative to their ancestors, and all that their monuments have transmitted to us to attest their elegance and their taste. The degraded state to which they have been reduced, through a dread which the superiority of their intellectual faculties still inspires, has rendered many of them wily knaves.

Next come the Jews, who are in Egypt what they are every where ;—hated, without being dreaded ; despised and persecuted incessantly, without ever being expelled ; plundering constantly, without being very rich ; and rendering themselves useful to all the world, at the same time that their only incentive is self-interest. In the great cities of Egypt the Jews contend with the Copts for the places in the custom-houses, stewardships of estates, and, in general, for whatever requires calculation, and supplies the means of amassing and concealing a fortune well or badly acquired.

The characteristic traits of another race of men,

who are very numerous, are strongly delineated. These are the Barabras, or people from the upper countries, inhabitants of Nubia, and of the frontiers of Abyssinia. In these fervid climates nature has, in an economical mood, denied them every superfluity. They have neither flesh nor fat, but simply nerves, muscles, and tendons, of greater elasticity than vigour. They perform by activity and address what others effect by strength. It would seem as if the barrenness of their soil had exhausted the small portion of substance which nature has bestowed on them. Their skin is of a shining and jetty black, exactly similar to that of antique bronzes. They have not the smallest resemblance to the negroes of the western parts of Africa. Their eyes are deep set and sparkling, with the brows hanging over; the nose pointed; the nostrils large; the mouth wide; the lips of moderate dimensions, and the hair and beard in small quantity, and hanging in little locks. Being wrinkled betimes, and retaining their agility till the last, the only indication of old age among them is the whiteness of the beard, every part of the body remaining slender and muscular as in their youth. Their physiognomy is cheerful; and they are lively and well disposed. They are most commonly employed to guard the magazines and timber-yards. They are clad in a piece of white woollen cloth, gain but little, and subsist on almost nothing. They are very faithful to their masters, to whom they are strongly attached.

We at length set out for the Delta. On the 10th of September, in the afternoon, the generals Menou and Marmont, a dozen men of letters and artists, and myself, with a detachment of two hundred men as an escort, crossed the Nile in boats. We passed through the villages of Madie, Elyeusera, Abugueridi, Melahue, Abuserat, Ralaici, Beredi, Ekbet, Estaone, Elbat, Elsezri, Suffrano, Elnegars, and Madie-di-Berimbal; and reached Berimbal at night. I have given this uninteresting

list of the different villages through which we passed, to convey an idea of the population of four leagues of territory, and of the abundance of a soil which nourishes so many inhabitants, and contains on its surface so many habitations. The following day, we reached Metubis at the expiration of twelve hours, meeting with as many villages as on the former occasion.

This city, on a variety of accounts, presented food for our curiosity. In the first place it is probable that it was built on the ruins of the ancient Metelis; and, in the next place, the well-known and tolerated licentiousness of its manners had bestowed on it the reputation which Canopus had precedently enjoyed. Our researches after antiquities were ineffectual. We requested of the sheiks a sight of the *almés*, a description of female dancers similar to those of India. These chiefs, a part of whose revenues they probably constituted, made some difficulty in allowing them to be brought into our presence. If polluted by the inspection of infidels, their reputation might suffer, and they might perhaps even be obliged to forfeit their condition in life. The vileness of a Christian in the eyes of a Mussulman may be estimated from this anecdote, since the objects which are the most dissolute and abandoned in this sect, may notwithstanding be profaned by the view of a European. The presence, however, of a general, together with that of two hundred soldiers, and some old offences for which the sheiks had an atonement to make, soon removed every obstacle. The *almés* arrived; and we could not perceive that they participated in the slightest degree in the political considerations and religious scruples of the sheiks. They made some difficulty, however, and that with a tolerable share of grace, in granting us what we should have considered as the smallest of their favours, that of uncovering the eyes and the mouth. In a little time their forms were completely displayed through coloured gauze fastened by a sash, which they tightened from time



AN ALMEE OF EGYPT





ENTERTAINMENT IN THE HAREM



to time negligently, and with an air of levity by no means disagreeable, and somewhat *à la française*. They had brought with them two instruments, a pipe and tabour, and a kind of drum, made from an earthen pot, on which the musician beat with his hands. They were seven in number. Two of them began dancing, while the others sang, with an accompaniment of castanets, in the shape of cymbals, and of the size of a crown piece. The movement which they displayed in striking them against each other gave infinite grace to their fingers and wrists. At the commencement the dance was voluptuous: it soon after became lascivious, and expressed, in the grossest and most indecent way, the giddy transports of the passions.

These dancers swallowed large glasses of brandy as if it had been lemonade. Accordingly, notwithstanding they were all young and handsome, they were haggard and jaded, with the exception of two of them, whose beauty bore a striking resemblance to our Paris belles. So truly is grace a pure gift of nature, that Josephina and Hanka, who had received no other education than that which is bestowed on the most infamous profession in the most dissolute of cities, when the dance was ended, possessed all the delicacy of manners of the women whom they resembled, and the soft and endearing voluptuousness which they, no doubt, reserve for those on whom they lavish their secret favours.

Notwithstanding the licentious life of these females, they are introduced into the harems to instruct the young persons of their sex in all that may render them agreeable to their future husbands. They give them lessons of dancing, singing, gracefulness, and, in general, of all voluptuous attainments. They are admitted to the festivals which the grandees give to those of their own rank; and when, from time to time, a husband wishes to entertain his harem in a particular manner, they are also sent for.

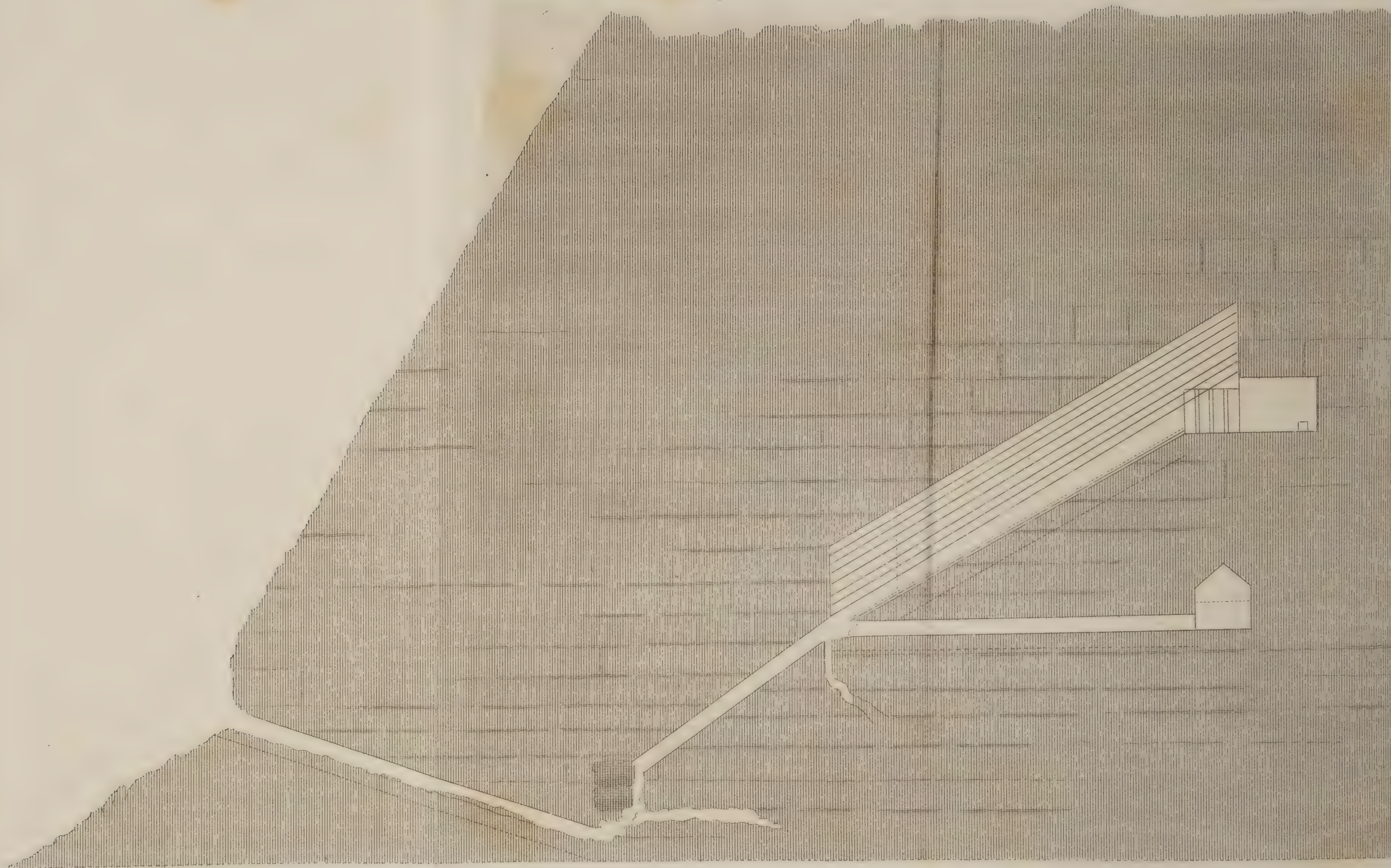
The other places which the party passed on their

route contained little or nothing interesting either of antiquities or otherwise.

On our return to Rosetta we found an order from the commander in chief, directing the members of the Institute to proceed to Cairo, to assist in organizing the proceedings and the sittings of that assembly. I embarked the next day with my comrades. In quitting the province of Rosetta we left behind us the richest and most cheerful part of the Delta; for, in ascending the river, after passing Rahmanieh, the sands of the Desert sometimes approach to the water's edge on the left bank, the country becomes naked, the trees thinly scattered, and the horizon is marked by an uniform line.

At more than ten leagues from Cairo we discovered the points of the pyramids piercing the horizon; soon after we saw the mountainous ridges of the Moccatam, and opposite to them, the chain of hills which separates Egypt from Libya, and forms a barrier to the banks of the Nile against the sands of the Desert. At the first dawn of next day I again saluted with my eyes the pyramids, and it was interesting to see on the surface of the Nile, then at high flood, the different villages glide before the eyes.

It was night when we got to Gizeh, and I knew not where I should repose; but in wandering about I found myself, by a good fortune which seemed like enchantment, in a hall furnished with fine velvet cushions, and scented with the perfume of an orange-grove, which gentle air wafted to us. This was the pleasure-house of Murad-Bey. I had heard its charms depreciated, and I only now saw it after the march of a victorious army; but I could not help feeling that, without resorting to needless comparisons, the oriental luxuries have their charms, and fill the senses with voluptuous pleasure. We do not here find, indeed, those long alleys which are the pride of the French gardens, nor the serpentine walks of the English, where health and appetite are the reward of the



SECTION OF THE PYRAMIDS AT GIZEH.



VIEW OF THE PYRAMIDS AT GIZEH.



VIEW OF THE PYRAMIDS AT SACCARAH.

exercise required to survey them ; but in the East, where indolent repose forms one of the chief luxuries, the tents or kiosks are pitched under the thick branches of a cluster of sycamores, and open at pleasure upon a fragrant underwood of orange and jasmine. To this is added the voluptuous pleasure of enjoyments still but imperfectly known to us, but which we may easily conceive ; such as being attended by young slaves, who unite to elegance of form gentle and caressing manners ; to be indolently stretched on vast and downy carpets, strewed with cushions, in company with some favourite beauty, breathing perfumes, and intoxicated with desires ; to receive sherbet from the hands of a young damsel, whose languishing eyes express the contentment of willing obedience, and not the constraint of servitude.

Next morning we set out, in number about three hundred, for the Pyramids. In approaching these stupendous buildings, their sloping and angular forms disguise their real height, and lessen it to the eye : but, as I approached to the opening, a hundred persons who were standing under it appeared so small, that I could hardly take them for men. But let us first ascend a small heap of sand and rubbish, which is perhaps the remains of the trench of the first of these edifices which presents itself, and which now leads to the opening through which it may be reached. This opening, which is nearly sixty feet from the base, is concealed by a general stone facing, which forms the third or inner enclosure to the solitary entrenchment around this monument. Here begins the first gallery ; its direction lies towards the centre and base of the edifice : but the rubbish, which has been but ill cleared out, or which, owing to the natural slope, has fallen back again into the gallery, added to the sand daily drifted in by the north wind, and which is never forced out again, has so blocked up the passage as to render it very inconvenient to cross. At the extremity two large blocks of granite

are met with, which form a second partition to this mysterious passage.

There is, however, with great exertion to be discovered a second gallery leading to a kind of landing-place, in which is a hole usually called "the well," being the opening to a horizontal gallery leading to a chamber known by the name of "the queen's chamber," without ornament, cornice, or any inscription whatever.

Returning to the landing-place, a perpendicular opening leads to the grand gallery, terminating in a second landing-place, on which is the third and last partition, constructed with much more art.

Lastly comes the royal chamber, containing the sarcophagus, a narrow sanctuary, which is the sole end and object of an edifice so stupendous, so colossal, in comparison of all the other works of man.

We had only two hours to devote to the pyramids, and I had employed an hour and a half in visiting the interior of the only one which was open. I returned from my journey harassed and agitated, and found my curiosity more stimulated than satisfied by my visit to the pyramids.

I had only time to view the sphinx. Though its proportions are colossal, the outline is pure and graceful; the expression of the head is mild, gracious, and tranquil; the character is African; but the mouth, the lips of which are thick, has a softness and delicacy of execution truly admirable; it seems real life and flesh. Art must have been at a high pitch when this monument was executed; for, if the head wants what is called *style*, that is to say, the straight and bold lines which give expression to the figures under which the Greeks have designated their deities, yet sufficient justice has been rendered to the fine simplicity and character of nature which is displayed in this figure.

Herodotus relates, that he was informed that the great pyramid, of which I have just been speaking, was the tomb of Cheops; that the adjoining pyrami-







LA VALETTA.

Vol. XLII Pa. 205.



THE PYRAMIDS.

Vol. XLII Pa. 207.



DISTANT VIEW OF CAIRO.

was that of his brother Cephrenes, who succeeded him; that only the former had any inner galleries; that a hundred thousand men had been employed twenty years in building it; that the immense labour which is required had rendered this prince odious to his people; and that notwithstanding the taxes which were levied on his subjects, the expense for the subsistence of the workmen alone was so enormous, that the prince was obliged to prostitute his daughter to finish this monument; and that the receipts of this prostitution were so great as to enable the princess, besides, to build the small pyramid adjoining, which served for her own tomb.

I had resided nearly a month at Cairo, and I still had to seek for "the superb town, the holy city, the delight of the imagination, greatest among the great, whose splendour and opulence made the prophet smile," for thus the eastern people describe it. I did indeed see a numerous population, and a vast extent of buildings, but not a single handsome street, nor one fine monument. The only place of consequence was Elbequier, the residence of Bonaparte; and this too has the air of a field; but during the inundation it pleases by its agreeable coolness, and by the night excursions which are there made in boats that have a striking effect. The palaces of this town are all surrounded by walls, which render the streets gloomy, instead of enlivening them; and the habitations of the poor, which are still more neglected here than in other parts of the country, add to the afflicting view of extreme poverty. However, within these fortified palaces, some convenience and luxury is to be found; they are adorned with handsome marble baths, and voluptuous vapour stoves, with masonic saloons, in the middle of which are basins and fountains, large divans composed of tufted carpets, raised beds covered with rich stuffs, and surrounded with magnificent cushions, which generally fill three sides of each room. The windows, however, when there are any,

never open, and the day-light which they admit is darkened by coloured glasses, and very close lattice-work, for the light principally comes in through a dome in the centre of the ceiling. The Mussulmans, who make but little use of the light, take very little pains to procure it in their houses, and in general all their customs seem to invite to repose; their divans; where the recumbent posture is more easy than to sit up, and from which it requires a serious effort, to a Turk, to rise; their dress, which is a kind of close petticoat that confines the legs; their large gloves, which stretch nearly eight inches over the fingers' ends; their turban, which prevents the head from stooping; their custom of always holding a pipe in their hands, and intoxicating themselves with its smoke;—all these circumstances conspire to destroy activity and imagination, so that they meditate without an object, pass every day in the same tasteless manner, and even their whole existence without seeking for any new object to relieve its dull monotony. Even that class of society who are obliged to work for their livelihood, are not much different from the higher orders that I have just described; they have been long taught to expect no other reward from industry than a bare subsistence, and thus they have no motive to depart from their ordinary routine, and to exercise their invention. They even dislike particularly every occupation which keeps them standing; the joiner, blacksmith, carpenter, farrier, all work sitting, even the mason raises a minaret without standing to his work: like savage nations, they do every thing almost with a single tool.

The inhabitants build as little as possible, and repair still less. If a wall threaten to come down, they prop it up; if notwithstanding it falls in, it only makes the fewer rooms in the house, and they quietly range their carpets by the side of the ruins; if at last the house falls altogether, they either abandon the spot; or, if they are obliged to clear it out, they carry

away the rubbish to as little a distance as possible ; which is the cause that in almost every town of Egypt, and especially in Cairo, the eye of the traveller is constantly arrested by mountains of rubbish scattered about, the cause of which he is at a loss to discover.

There are some considerable edifices at Cairo, which I think should be attributed to the times of the caliphs ; such as the palace of Joseph, the well of Joseph, the granaries of Joseph, all of which have been spoken of by various travellers, and by some the popular tradition has been retained of these monuments owing their origin to the prudent foresight of Joseph the slave of Potiphar. Were this the case, Cairo should be as ancient as Memphis, and the remains of other towns should be found near the city, since these palaces are all built of ruins more ancient than the edifices themselves. Besides, these structures all bear the general marks of the mussulman architecture of these regions ; that is to say, they present an assemblage of magnificence, misery, and ignorance.

The aqueduct which brings water from Old Cairo to the castle, by a route of a hundred and sixty fathoms, would be a work of art worth celebrating, if in its course it was not rendered faulty by many imperfections.

The castle, which is built without plan, or any real strength or defence, has, however, some parts well laid out. The bashaw here resided, or rather was shut up ; the only remarkable room in his quarter is the hall of the divan, in which the beys assembled, and which has often been the scene of angry debates and bloody strife in this contentious government. Joseph's well, which is in this quarter, is cut in the rock, two hundred and sixty-nine feet in depth. Joseph's palace, which I have just mentioned, is certainly planned in a fine style, and I could not see without some admiration the use which the Arabian architects have made of the antique fragments, which they have incorporated in their own works, and the

ingenuity which they have shown in occasionally mixing with them ornaments of their own invention.

At present, as the Turks no longer find ready to their hands the columns of ancient Egyptian architecture, and yet continue to build mosques without clearing away those which fall to ruins, they commission the Franks to send them columns by the dozen. The minarets and the tombs are the only buildings which preserve the Arabian style in any degree of purity; and at least they gratify the eye by a richness of ornament which does not degenerate into heaviness, and a symmetry of parts combined with so much elegance, as to remove all idea of meanness and poverty of style. The cemetery of the Mamelukes is an example of this: in quitting the rubbish of Cairo, the stranger is astonished to see another town all built of white marble, where edifices raised on columns, and terminated by domes, or by painted, carved, and gilt palanquins, form a cheerful and inviting picture; trees alone are wanting to render this funeral retreat a delightful spot.

The vaults of Saccara had just been opened, and more than five hundred mummies of the ibis had been found in a sepulchral cave. Two had been given me, and I could not resist the desire of opening one of them.

There is a considerable variety in the degree of care bestowed in embalming these birds, so that in fact nothing but the earthen pot in which the whole is contained is common to all.

The serpent, though not winged, is still the object of sorcery in Egypt. I was with the commander in chief one day, when the Psylli were introduced, and we put many questions to them relative to the mystery of their sect, and the supposed command over serpents which they appear to possess. They answered our questions with more assurance than intelligence, but we put them to the proof: "Can you tell us," said the general, "whether there are any serpents

in the palace, and if there are, can you oblige them to come forth from their retreats?" They answered both questions in the affirmative; and we put them to the proof: on which they searched all the rooms, and presently after they declared that there was a snake in the house; they then renewed their search to discover where he was hid, made some convulsions in passing before a jar placed in a corner of one of the rooms, and declared that the animal was there; where indeed we actually found one. This was a true Comus's trick; we looked at each other, and acknowledged that they were very adroit.

Being always curious to observe the means by which men command the opinions of others, I regretted that I was not at Rosetta at the procession of the feast of Ibrahim, in which the convulsions of the Psylli form the most entertaining part, to the populace, of this religious ceremony. To make up for my loss, I addressed myself to the chief of the sect, who was keeper of the *okel* or tavern of the Franks; I flattered him; and he promised to make me a spectator of the exaltation of one of the Psylli, as soon as he should have *blown into his spirit*, as he expressed it. From my curiosity he thought I bade fair to be a proselyte, and he proposed to initiate me, which I accepted; but when I learned that in the ceremony of initiation the grand-master spits in the mouth of the neophyte, this circumstance cooled my ardour, and I found that I could not prevail on myself to go through this trial: so I gave my money to the high-priest, and he promised to let me see one of the inspired.

They had brought with them their serpents, which they let loose from a large leather sack in which they were kept, and made them erect their bodies and hiss, by irritating them. I remarked that it was the light which principally caused their anger; for as soon as they were returned into the sack their passion ceased, and they no longer endeavoured to bite. It was also curious to observe, that, when angry, the neck for six

inches below the head was dilated to the size of a man's hand. I soon saw that even I could manage the serpents perfectly well without fear of their fangs; for having well remarked that the *Psylli*, while they were threatening the animal with one hand, seized it on the back of the head with the other, I did the same with one of the serpents with equal success, though much to the indignation of the performers themselves. After this, they proceeded to the grand mystery: one of the performers took a snake, which he had previously disabled by breaking the under jaw, and by rubbing away the gums till the whole of the palate was destroyed; he then grasped it with the appearance of passion, and approached the chief, who with great gravity gave him the *spirit*, that is to say, after uttering some mysterious words, blew into his mouth; and, at the instant, the other was seized with a sacred convulsion, his arms and legs distorted, his eyes seeming to start from his head, and he began to tear the animal with his teeth; whilst the two attendants appearing to commiserate his sufferings, restrained his struggles with difficulty, and snatched from his hand the serpent, which he was unwilling to let go. As soon as the snake was removed, he remained as if stupid; but the chief approached him, muttered some words to him, retook from him the spirit by aspiration, and he returned to his natural state. Now, however, he that had seized the snake beginning to be tormented with the same ardour to consummate the mystery, came up to the chief to demand the spirit; and as he was stronger and more active than the first, his cries and convulsions were still more violent and ridiculous. I had now seen enough of the initiation, and thus ended this gross juggling.

In these countries the sect *Psylli* boasts a very high origin: it was particularly prevalent at Cyrenaica; and the god *Knuphis*, or the architect of the universe, according to *Strabo* and *Eusebius*, was adored at *Elephantina* under the figure of a serpent.

From the time of the serpent of Eden to that of Achmin, mentioned by Savary, this reptile has enjoyed uninterrupted celebrity: after having tempted our first mother, the apple was taken away from him; when making a circle with his tail in his mouth, he has become the symbol of eternity; when coiled round a staff, he is the god of health; the Egyptians, by twining two of them round a globe, have represented perhaps the equilibrium of the system of the world; the Indians put them in the hands of all their divinities; we have made him the representative of justice and prudence; the Jews have had their brazen serpent; the Greeks that of Elermis and the Python; and in later times the Mussulmans have their harrili, the deflowerer; and yet so many illustrations have changed nothing of the nature of this wise animal; he continues to court obscurity, and avoid the light, and never raises his head to more than half his height. Why then all this celebrity, and this religious observance unanimously bestowed on this reptile?

The camels do all the office of carts at Cairo; they bring thither all the provisions, and carry away the filth: the saddle-horses and asses are chiefly devoted to transporting passengers from place to place, and they are seen in every street saddled, bridled, and always ready to start. The ass, which in Europe and the northern countries is heavy and dull, appears quite in its natural climate in Egypt; and it here enjoys all its powers in full perfection; it is healthy, active, and cheerful, the mildest and safest animal to mount that one can possibly have; his natural pace is an amble or a gallop, and without fatiguing his rider, he carries him rapidly over the large plains which lie between different parts of this straggling city.

I found myself very comfortable at Cairo: but it was not to loiter here that I had quitted Paris; and as the commander in chief was sending off a convoy to Desaix; and as I was set upon going to the east, I

asked of him a passport southwards, and in a few hours I was actually on my journey.

The next morning at day-break we were still a league short of Saccarah. I took a view of the pyramids of this place, as far as I could distinguish them, which at this distance seemed to occupy a space of two leagues. Though so far from the river, I could distinguish that the nearest, which is of middling size, is composed of stages rising one above the other; after this come to view other small pyramids almost destroyed; half a league further is one whose base seems as wide as those of Gizeh, but of less elevation, and but little decayed; half a league still further is the largest of all those of Saccarah, whose form is irregular, that is, the line of the terminating angle is sloped like a buttress reversed; close to this is a smaller one; and another nearer to the Nile, which is absolutely in ruins, and looks like a brown gray rock, owing I suppose to the materials being unburnt brick; and the shore of the river probably concealed others from my view.

Opposite Missenda, we saw another very large pyramid, but so shattered, that in any other country but Egypt, at the great distance at which it is seen from the river, it would be taken for a small hill. A league further there is another still larger and more shapeless. The small islands at this part of the river we found covered with ducks, herons, and pelicans.

In the evening we saw the pyramid of Meidum between the villages of Rigga and Caffr-el-Risk.

In the night we arrived at Saoyeh. In this part of Egypt all the buildings are made of mud and chopped straw dried in the sun; the stairs, window-openings, hearths, utensils, and even furniture, are all of the same simple material; so that if it were possible that the invariable order of climate which nature has fixed here should be for a moment changed, and that unusual winds should arrest and dissolve in rain some of those groups of clouds which the north wind is



A PEASANT

perpetually driving over their heads in summer towards the mountains of Abyssinia, the towns and villages would be softened down and liquefied in a few hours so completely, that corn might be sown on the spot where they stood; but thanks to the climate, a house built of this frail material will generally last the life of the builder, which is amply sufficient for the man whose son must ransom from the sovereign the ground for which his father has already paid.

The day after my arrival, a column of three hundred men went out to raise the *miri* or land-tax, and a requisition of buffaloes and horses; which gave me an excellent opportunity of making discoveries.

All the country which we passed was abundantly fertile, and sown with wheat, sainfoin, barley, beans, lentiles, and *dura* or *sorgo*, which is a kind of millet cultivated almost universally in Upper Egypt. Whilst the grain of this plant is still milky, the peasants roast it like maize, they chew the green stalk like the sugar cane; the leaves are food for cattle; and the medulla or pith, when dry, serves for tinder: the cane supplies the place of wood for firing and heating the ovens; flour is made of the grain itself, and cakes of the flour, but none of all these parts are good.

Between Medium and Sapht I found the ruins of a mosque, among which were large columns of cipoline marble: could this be the remains of the ancient Nicopolis?

Our second expedition was to Meimund, a very rich village, with ten thousand inhabitants. Like all the rest, it is surrounded with dunghills and heaps of rubbish, which in such a flat country as this form so many hills, that may be seen at a considerable distance.

From Meimund we proceeded to El-Eaffer, a pretty village in an excellent country. The gum-arabic is here collected, which is procured by incision from a kind of mimosa, called the nilotica, or Egyptian thorn, which bears very fragrant golden buds. We here

procured fine horses, and an excellent breakfast. We discovered hence Abussir, Beniali, Dallaste, Bacher, Tabuch, Buch, Zeitun, and Eschmend-el-Arab. At El-Eaffer we met with a dozen Arabs, encamped without the village. I got a view of the chief's tent, composed of nine picquets supporting an indifferent woollen tent-cloth, under which were all the articles of his household furniture, consisting of a mat, and a carpet of the same stuff as the tent, two sacks, one of wheat for the man, and another of barley for his mare, a hand mill to grind corn, a chicken pen, and a jar for his hens to lay in, pots, coffee-pots, and cups. The women were hideous as well as the children.

We pass over the detail of a fierce engagement between the army of general Desaix and the Mamalukes under Murad Bey, in which the former were completely victorious. "Never," says the author, "was there a more terrible battle, a more splendid victory, and a more unexpected success, by detaching the Arabs from the Mamalukes. I still think of it as a frightful dream, which has only left in the mind a vague impression of terror.

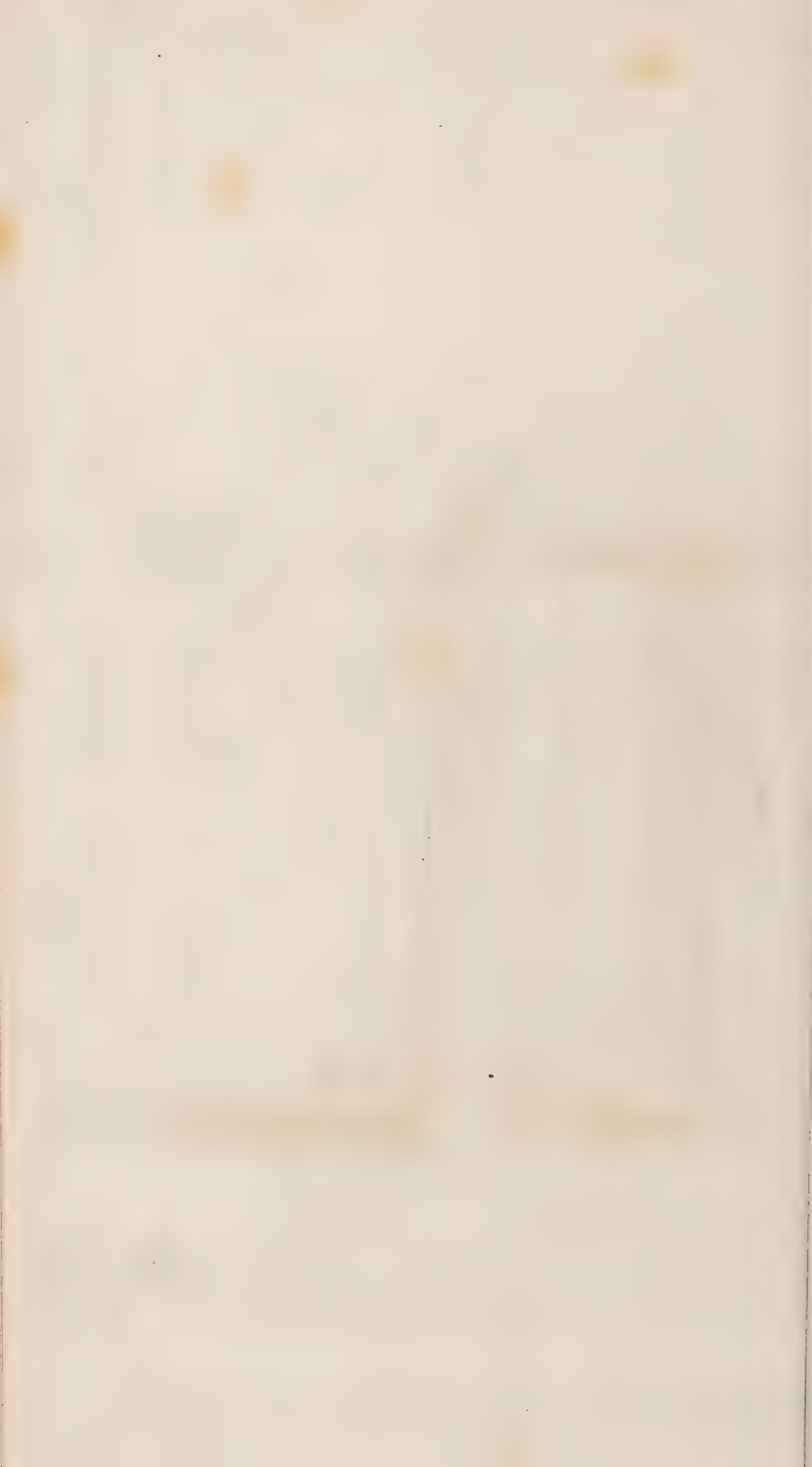
In the route of the army, or excursions from it by parties, a number of places are described and events recounted, none of which deserve notice until the author reached the Portico of Hermopolis, a relic of the highest antiquity.

I was enchanted with delight at thus seeing the first fruit of my labours; for, excepting the pyramids, this was the first monument which gave me an idea of the ancient Egyptian architecture; the first stones that I had seen which had preserved their original destination, without being altered or deformed by the works of modern times, and had remained untouched for four thousand years, to give me an idea of the immense range and high perfection to which the arts had arrived in this country.

Among the hillocks, within three or four hundred yards of the portico, enormous blocks of stone may be



RUINS OF THE TEMPLE OF HERMOPOLIS.





A MAMELUKE COMPLETELY ARMED

seen half-buried in sand, and regular architecture beneath them, which appear to form an edifice containing columns of granite, just rising above the present level of the soil. Further on, but still connected with the scattered fragments of the great temple of Hermopolis, is a mosque, in which are a number of columns of cipoline marble of middling size, and retouched by the Arabs; then comes the large village of Achmunin, peopled by about five thousand inhabitants.

Meluai is a larger and beautiful town; its streets are straight, and its bazar very well built; there is here a very large house belonging to the Mamelukes, which it would be easy to fortify. We entered it late; I had lost time in going up and down the town, and seeking out for quarters: I was lodged without the walls, and before a handsome house which appeared very commodious; the owner was sitting at his ease before his door, and seeing one lying down on the outside, he beckoned me into a chamber, where I found general Beliard, who had already taken advantage of his hospitality. I was hardly asleep when I was awakened by an intolerable restlessness, which I took to be the beginning of an inflammatory fever; but after remaining a long time in this state of agitation, I found my companion as ill off as myself, and we both started up and left the room; and looking at each other by moonlight, our whole skin was red, inflamed, and our features hardly distinguishable; and, on further examination, we found ourselves covered with vermin of every kind.

These mansions in Upper Egypt are nothing but vast pigeon-houses, in which the owner reserves to himself only a room or two for his own use, and there he lodges along with poultry of all kinds, and all the vermin that they engender between them, which it is a part of his daily employment to hunt for, but at night the toughness of his skin defies their bites; and thus our host, who intended to do us a civility, could

not conceive the reason of our quitting him so abruptly. We got rid as well as we could of the most troublesome of these intruders, vowing faithfully never again to accept of such hospitality.

I hastened to visit the Libyan chain of mountains, which I found, as I had supposed, a ruin of nature, formed of horizontal and regular strata of calcareous stones more or less crumbling, and of different shades of whiteness, divided at intervals with large mamillated and concentric flints, which appear to be the nuclei, or, as it were, the bones of this vast chain, and seem to keep it together, and prevent its total destruction. The rocks are excavated by a vast number of tombs of different dimensions, and decorated with more or less magnificence. All the inner porches of these grottoes are covered with hieroglyphics. All the elegancies of ornament which the Greeks have employed in their architecture, all the wavy lines, the scrolls, and other Greek forms, are here executed with taste and exquisite delicacy.

Besides these principal grottoes, there is such a countless number of smaller excavations, that the whole rock is cavernous, and resounds under the foot. Further on to the south, are remains of large quarries, the cavities of which are supported by pilasters: some of these quarries have been the abode of pious hermits.

Girgeh, the capital of Upper Egypt, is a modern town that contains nothing remarkable: it is interesting only as being situated half way between Cairo and Syene, and in a very rich territory. We found here all kinds of provisions, at a very low price; bread was one sous the pound; twelve eggs, two sous; two pigeons, three sous; a goose weighing fifteen pounds we got at twelve sous. Such too was the abundance of these articles, that after more than five thousand of us had remained here three weeks, and had increased the consumption, and scattered

out money, no rise in the demand for these necessities had taken place.

We found at Girgeh a Nubian prince, a brother to the king of Darfur: he was returning from India, and was going to rejoin another of his brothers, who was accompanying another caravan of Nubians of Sennar, with as many women. He was bringing to Cairo elephants' teeth and gold dust, to barter against coffee, sugar, shawls, cloth, lead, iron, senna, and tamarinds. We had a long conversation with this young prince, who was lively, gay, impetuous, and clever; all of which were shown in his physiognomy: his colour was deeper than bronze, his eyes very fine and well set, his nose somewhat turned up and small, his mouth very wide but not flat, and his legs, like those of all the Africans, bowed and lank. He informed us, that it was forty days journey from Darfur to Siut, during which time water was only to be met with once a week, either in the wells, or in crossing the *oasis*. When their female slaves were not taken in war, they cost them one indifferent gun, and the men slaves two. He told us that it was very cold in his country at a certain time of the year; and having no word to express to us *ice*, he said, that they eat a great deal of a substance which was hard when taken in the hands, and which slipped through the fingers when it was held there for some time. We inquired of him of Tombuctoo, this celebrated city, the existence of which is so problematical in Europe. From his account Tombuctoo was at the south-west of his country, and its inhabitants came to trade with him: they were six months on their journey from Tombuctoo to Darfur, and purchased the various articles which he brought from Cairo, for which they exchanged gold dust. He added, that this country was called in their language the *paradise*; that the town of Tombuctoo was situated on the banks of a river, which flowed towards the west, and

that the inhabitants were small of stature, and mild in disposition.

We amused ourselves with hearing Arabian tales. The Arabs retain the same passion for these tales as we have long been familiar with in the thousand and one tales of the sultana Scherasade. I observed that if these relations were not rich in natural images and just sentiment, they abound in extraordinary events and interesting situations, occasioned by high and strong passions: these writers make abundant use of all the machinery of castles, iron grates, poisons, daggers, rapes, night adventures, mistakes, treachery; in short, all that can embroil a narration, and appear to render the *denouement* impossible; and yet the story always finishes very naturally in the clearest and most satisfactory manner. This is the merit of the inventor; and to this the narrator adds that of precision and declamation, which are in high esteem with the audience; and thus it happens that the same story is told by several relators successively with equal interest and success; one giving in a better style of declamation the pathetic and amorous part; another throwing more interest into the battle scenes and those of horror; and a third humouring the laughable events; in short, it is their theatrical entertainment; and as we go to a play the first time for the piece, and afterwards for particular actors; so with the Arabs, these repeated representations do not fatigue the auditors. These tales are followed with discussions; the parts which have excited applause are criticized, and thus the talents of the performers are brought to greater perfection; and all those who have acquired a high pitch of excellence in this art are in great estimation, as they contribute to the happiness of a whole family, or even a horde. The Arabs have also their poets, even their improvisatores, who exhibit at great feasts, and they appear to be enchanted with them. I have heard them; but

when their songs are not narrative, they doubtless lose much by being translated; they seemed to me to be only *concetti*, or a very insipid play upon words: these poets too have very singular manners, and particular tricks or gestures, which distinguish them indeed from others, but give an appearance of insanity that inspired me with pity and repugnance; which was not the case with the narrators of the tales, who appear to have much more talent and nature.

After much uninteresting marching in pursuit of the Mamelukes, and occasional skirmishes, we arrived at Tentyra. The first object which I saw was a small temple on the left hand of the road, in so bad a style and proportions of architecture, that at a distance I took it to be the ruins of a mosque. In turning back to the right, I found buried in a gloomy heap of ruins a gate, built of enormous masses covered with hieroglyphics; and through this gate I had a view of the temple. I wish I could here transfuse into the soul of my readers the sensation which I experienced. This monument seemed to me to have the primitive character of a temple in the highest perfection. Covered with ruins as it was, the sensation of silent respect which it excited in my mind appeared to me a proof of its impressive aspect; and without being partial in favour of the antique, I may add, that the whole army experienced similar feelings.

Nothing is more simple and better put together than the few lines which compose this architecture. The Egyptians, borrowing nothing from the style of other nations, have here added no foreign ornament, no superfluity of materials: order and simplicity are the principles which they have followed, and they have carried them to sublimity. At this point they have stopped, and have attached so much importance to preserving the unity of design, that though they have loaded the walls of these edifices with bas-reliefs, inscriptions, and historical and scientific re-

presentations, none of these rich additions intersects a single line of the general plan, all of which are religiously preserved unbroken: the sumptuous and rich decorations which appear to the eye when close to the building, all vanish at a short distance, and leave full to view the grand elements of architectural composition, which are dictated by sound reason. In no place had I ever been surrounded with so many objects to elevate my imagination. These monuments, which imprinted on the mind the respect due to the sanctuary of the Divinity, were the open volumes, in which science was unfolded, morality dictated, and the useful arts promulgated; every thing spoke, every object was animated with the same mind. The opening of the doors, the angles, the most private recess, still presented a lesson, a precept of admirable harmony, and the lightest ornament on the gravest feature of the architecture revealed, under living images, the abstract truths of astronomy. Painting added a further charm to sculpture and architecture, and produced at the same time an agreeable richness, which did not injure either the general simplicity or the gravity of the whole. To all appearance, painting, in Egypt, was then only an auxiliary ornament, and not a particular art: the sculpture was emblematical, and, if I may so call it, architectural.

I was particularly struck with the beauty of the gate which closed the sanctuary of the temple: all the ornaments which architecture has since added to this species of decoration, have only diminished the general style.

On casting my eyes on the ceilings I had perceived zodiacs, planetary systems, and celestial planispheres, represented in a tasteful arrangement: the walls I had observed to be covered with groups of pictures exhibiting the religious rites of this people, their labours in agriculture and the arts, and their moral precepts: I saw that the Supreme Being, the

first cause, was every where depicted by the emblems of his attributes ; every thing was equally important.

The hieroglyphics, which are executed in three different manners, are also of three species, and may take their date from as many distinct periods. From the examination of the different edifices which have fallen under my eye, I imagine that the most ancient of these characters are only simple outlines cut in without relief, and very deep ; the next in age, and which produce the least effect, are simply in a very shallow relief ; and the third, which seem to belong to a more improved age, and are executed at Tentyra more perfectly than in any other part of Egypt, are in relief below the level of the outline. By the side of the figures which compose these tabular pieces of sculpture, there are small hieroglyphics, which appear to be only the explanation of the subjects at large, and in which the forms are much simplified, so as to give a more rapid mode of inscription, or a kind of *short-band*, if we may apply the term to sculpture.

A fourth kind of hieroglyphics appears to be devoted simply to ornament : we have improperly termed it, I know not why, the *arabesque*. It was adopted by the Greeks, and in the age of Augustus was introduced among the Romans ; and in the fifteenth century, during the restoration of the arts, it was transmitted by them to us as a fantastic decoration, the peculiar taste of which formed all its merit. Among the Egyptians, who employed these ornaments with equal taste, every object had a meaning or a moral, and at the same time formed the decoration of the friezes, the cornices, and the sur-basements of their architecture.

I discovered at Tentyra the representations of the peristyles of temples in caryatides, which are executed in painting at the baths of Titus, and have been copied by Raphael, and which we constantly ape in

our rooms, without suspecting that the Egyptians have given us the first models of them.

With my pencil in my hand, I passed from object to object, distracted from one by the inviting appearance of the next; constantly attracted to new subjects, and again torn from them, I wanted eyes, hands, and intelligence vast enough to see, copy, and reduce to some order, the multitude of striking images which presented themselves before me. I was ashamed at representing such sublime objects by such imperfect designs; but I wished to preserve some memorial of the sensations which I here experienced, and I feared that Tentyra would escape from me for ever; so that my regret equalled my present enjoyment. I had just discovered, in a small apartment, a celestial planisphere, when the last rays of day-light made me perceive that I was alone here, along with my kind and obliging friend general Beliard, who, after having satisfied his own curiosity, would not leave me unprotected in so deserted a spot.

In the evening, Latournerie, an officer of brilliant courage, and of a refined and delicate taste, said to me: "Since I have been in Egypt deceived in all my expectations, I have been constantly heavy and melancholy, but Tentyra has cured me; what I have seen this day has repaid me for all my fatigues; whatever happens to me in the event of this expedition, I shall all my life congratulate myself at having embarked in it, to have obtained the remembrance of this day, which I shall preserve all the rest of my existence."

The next great object of interest was Thebes.

At nine o'clock, says the author, in making a sharp turn round the point of a projecting chain of mountains, we discovered all at once the site of the ancient Thebes in its whole extent; a celebrated city, the size of which Homer has characterized by the single expression of *with a hundred gates*.

The situation of this town is as fine as can well be imagined; and the immense extent of its ruins convinces the spectator that fame has not magnified its size; for the diameter of Egypt not being sufficient to contain it, its monuments rest upon the two chains of mountains which are contiguous, whilst its tombs occupy the valleys towards the west, far on into the Desert.

Four large hamlets divide amongst them the remains of the ancient monuments of Thebes, whilst the river, by the sinuosity of its course, seems still proud of flowing among its ruins.

Soon after noon day we arrived at a desert, which was the Necropolis, or city of the dead: the rock, excavated on its inclined plane, presents three sides of a square, with regular openings, behind which are double and triple galleries, which were used as burying-places. I entered here on horseback, with Desaix, supposing that these gloomy retreats could only be the asylum of peace and silence; but scarcely were we immersed in the obscurity of these galleries, than we were assailed with javelins and stones, by enemies whom we could not distinguish; and this put an end to our observations. We since learnt that a considerable number of people inhabited these obscure retreats, and that probably, from the savage habits contracted there, they were almost always in rebellion against authority, and had become the terror of the vicinity. Too much in haste to make a fuller acquaintance with the inhabitants, we marched back with precipitation, and this time I only saw Thebes on the gallop.

We arrived presently after at a temple, which I took to be of the highest antiquity, from its ruinous appearance, its thorough antique hue, its construction, which was less perfect than the rest, the extreme simplicity of its ornaments, the irregularity of its outline, and especially the coarseness of its sculpture. I then arrived at a second edifice much

more considerable, and in a better state of preservation. I found in my way a statue of black granite.

At the entrance of this temple two square mounds flank an immense gate, and against the inner wall are engraved, in two bas-reliefs, the victorious combats of some hero. This piece of sculpture is in the most irregular style of composition, without perspective, plan or distribution, like the first conceptions of the unimproved human mind. I have seen at Pompeia rude sketches done by Roman soldiers on the stucco of the walls; they entirely resembled in style those which I am now speaking of, which are like the first attempts of a child, before he has seen any thing whereby to arrange his ideas. Here the hero is gigantic, and the enemies whom he is overthrowing are twenty-five times smaller than himself.

At some paces from this gate are the remains of an enormous colossus; it has been wantonly shattered. To give an idea of its dimensions, the breadth of the shoulders is twenty-five feet, which would give about seventy-five for the entire height: the figure is exact in its proportions, the style middling, but the execution perfect; when overset, it fell upon its face, which hides this interesting part; the drapery being broken, we can no longer judge by its attributes whether it is the figure of a king or a divinity. Is it the statue of Memnon, or that of Osymandyas? If it is the statue of Memnon, which appears to me the more probable, every traveller for two thousand years' must have mistaken the object of their curiosity, as appears by the inscription of the names on another colossal statue.

The spot where this figure stood might be either a temple or a palace, or both at the same time.

This ruin, which is situated on the slope of the mountain, and has never been inhabited in later times, is so well preserved in the parts that are still standing, that it appears more like a new and un-

finished building: several columns are seen here to their very bases, their proportions are grand, but the style, though purer than that of the first-mentioned temple, is however not comparable to that of Tentyra, either for the majesty of the general design, or for the delicacy in the execution of particular parts.

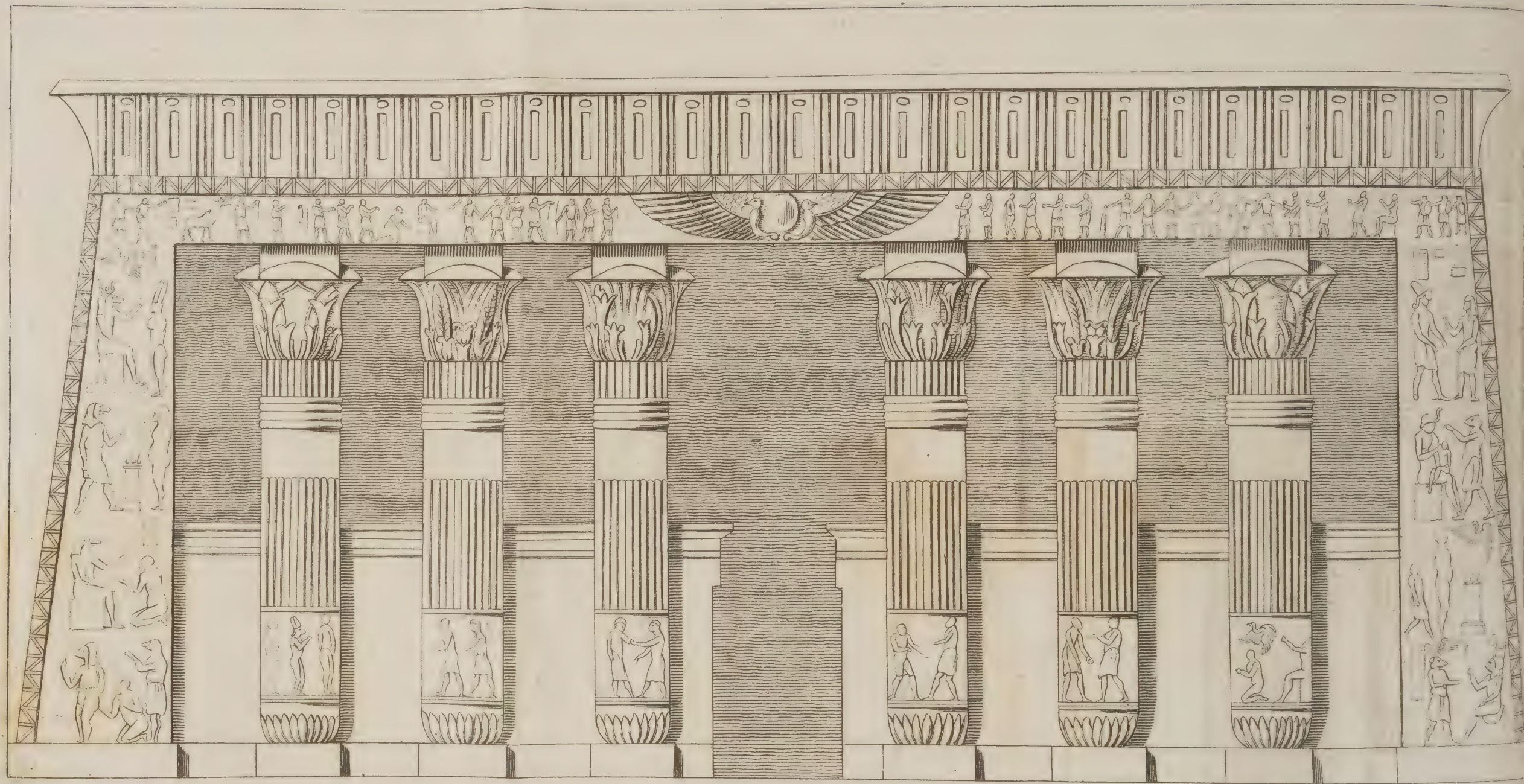
Our attention was arrested in the plain by two large statues in a sitting posture, between which, according to Herodotus, Strabo, and those who have copied the relation of these writers, was the famous statue of Osymandyas, the largest of all these colossal figures. Osymandyas had prided himself so much on the execution of this bold design, that he had caused an inscription to be engraven on the pedestal of the statue, in which he defied the power of man to destroy this monument, as well as that of his tomb, the pompous description of which now appears only a fantastic dream. The two statues still left standing are doubtless those of the mother and the son of this prince, mentioned by Herodotus; that of the king himself has disappeared, the hand of time and the teeth of envy appear to have united zealously in its destruction, and nothing of it remains but a shapeless rock of granite; so that it requires the persevering look of the amateur, accustomed to this kind of examination, to distinguish any portions of the figure which have escaped destruction; and even those are so insignificant, that they can throw no light on its dimensions. The two statues still existing are in the proportion of from fifty to sixty-five feet in height; they are seated with their two hands on their knees; all that remains of them shows a severity of style, and a straightness of position. The bas-reliefs and the small figures clustered round the seat of the southernmost of these statues, are not without elegance and delicacy in the execution. On the leg of the statue the most to the north, the names of the illustrious and ancient travellers who came to hear

the sound of the statue of Memnon are written in Greek.

At the right, adjoining the village of Medinet-Abu, at the bottom of the mountain, is a vast palace, built and enlarged at different periods. All that I could make of it in this my first examination on horseback, was, that the lower part of this palace which abuts against the mountain, is the most ancient in its construction, and is covered with hieroglyphics, cut very deep and without any relief; and that in the fourth century the Catholic religion converted it to sacred purposes, and made a church of it, adding two rows of pillars in the style of the age, to support a covered roof. To the south of this monument there are Egyptian apartments, with ladders and square windows, the only building that I had yet seen here which was not a temple; and beyond this are edifices rebuilt with old materials, but left unfinished. We got to Hermontes, where we slept, and I was lodged in a temple. After dismounting, I profited by the small remains of day-light to take a figure of Typhon or Anubis. This was so often repeated in the temple where I took up my abode, that I concluded the whole to have been dedicated to him. He is represented standing up, with a belly like a pig. and breasts similar to those of the Egyptian women of the present day. Two hundred yards to the east of this temple is a large reservoir, lined with fine stone, with four ladders for descending into it.

Four hundred yards further, in the same direction, are the ruins of a church, built in the fourth or fifth century, out of the ruins of the finest Egyptian antiquities: the nave was decorated with splendid columns of granite but the whole is overthrown, and nothing is left standing but a few fragments of the choir, and the arches of the outer enclosure.

In the morning of the 28th, I saw a tamarisk of an enormous size, planted on the bank of the Nile:



ELEVATION OF THE PORTICO AT LATOPOLIS.

it had been loosened at the roots by progressive inundations, and at last overthrown; the greater number of its roots had ranged themselves upright, and produced leaves; the old branches on which the tree had fallen were fixed in the earth, and served as a footstool, so that the enormous trunk, which remained suspended horizontally, by a confusion in the system of circulation, vegetated in every direction, and gave it such a grotesque appearance, that the Turks had not failed to make a miracle of this vegetable monster.

We arrived at Esneh, the ancient Latopolis. Some remains are still visible of its port or quay on the bank of the Nile. This town also contains the portico of a temple, which appears to me to be the most perfect monument of ancient architecture. The portico is very well preserved, and possesses a great richness of sculpture: it is composed of eighteen columns with broad capitals; these columns are noble and elegant.

The hieroglyphics in relief, with which it is covered within and without, are executed with great care; they contain, among other subjects, a zodiac, and large figures of men with crocodiles' heads: the capitals, though all different, have a very fine effect. We were struck with admiration at the fine and advantageous site of Apollinopolis Magna: it commanded the river and the whole valley of Egypt; and its magnificent temple towered over the rest like a large citadel, which keeps the adjacent country in awe. During this visit, I had only time to ride round this edifice, the extent, majesty, magnificence, and high preservation of which surpassed all that I had yet seen in Egypt, or elsewhere; it made an impression on me as vast as its own gigantic dimensions. This building is a long suite of pyramidal gates, of courts decorated with galleries, of porticoes, and of covered naves, constructed, not with common stones, but entire rocks.

The army stopped for some time and regaled, and established themselves at the charming island of Elephantina. It was at its southern extremity that the Egyptian town and the Roman habitations were situated, and the Arabian buildings which succeeded them. The part occupied by the Romans can only now be made out by the bricks, the tessellated pavements, and the small images of porcelain and bronze which are still found; the Arab quarter is only distinguished by the dunghills with which they have covered the soil, a common feature to all the ruins of the edifices of this people. In the midst of a vast field of bricks and other pieces of baked earth, a very ancient temple is still left standing, surrounded with a pilastered gallery, and two columns in the portico. Nothing is wanting but two pilasters, on the left angle of this ruin. Other edifices had been attached to it in a later period, but only some fragments were remaining, which could give no idea of their form when perfect, but only proved that these accessory parts were much larger than the original sanctuary. This latter is covered both within and without with hieroglyphics in relief, very well cut, and in good preservation.

Could this be the temple of Cneph, the good genius, that among the Egyptian gods who approaches the nearest to our ideas of the Supreme Being? Or is the temple of this deity one which is placed six hundred paces more to the north, of the same form and size, though more in ruins, all the ornaments of which are accompanied by the serpent, the emblem of wisdom and eternity, and peculiarly that of the god Cneph? To judge from what I have seen of Egyptian edifices, this supposed temple of Cneph is the kind which was used in the earliest times, and is absolutely the same species of temple as that of Kurnu in Thebes, which appeared to me to be the most ancient of all in that city. The chief difference in the sculpture of this at Elephantina, which I have been

able to discover, is, that the figures have more life, the drapery is more flowing, and falls into a better form of composition.

In the middle of the isle there are two frames of a large outer door, made of blocks of granite, and ornamented with hieroglyphics. These remains certainly indicate monuments of great magnificence, the extent of which might be made out by a little digging. At the east is another fragment of a very small and highly finished edifice: all that is seen of it is the west side of a narrow chamber, or a very small temple, and the hieroglyphics that remain are perfectly well sculptured. The ornaments are loaded with the lotus, particularly the flowers of this plant, whose drooping stem appears to be revived by a figure watering it. This figure is the same as one that I have found at Latopolis. This chamber or temple communicated with a narrower passage, which, to judge by the traces of a number of successive buildings, terminated on a gallery open to the Nile, and resting on a large embankment facing, which defended the eastern part of the island from being worn away by the current of the river. Three porticoes of this gallery remain, and a flight of granite stairs which dip into the river.

All these buildings are founded upon masses of rock, covered with hieroglyphics, engraved with more or less care. Further on, turning towards the north, are two portions of parapet, which leave between them an opening, through which one may descend to the river: on the inner side of the right parapet is a bas-relief in marble, representing the figure of the Nile, four feet in height, in the same attitude as a colossal statue of the same subject which is at Rome.

The island of Elephantina, defended on the south by breakers, has been doubtless much increased towards the north by alluvial soil. This soil becomes soon converted into cultivated lands and pleasant

gardens, which being kept perpetually watered by means of wheels and buckets, produce here four or five crops yearly ; and thus the inhabitants are numerous, in easy circumstances, and courteous. When I hailed them from the opposite shore, they would come across for me in their boats, and I was soon surrounded with all the children, who offered me for sale fragments of antiquity and rough carnelians. With a few crowns I made a great number of these little ones happy, and gained the good will of their parents, who invited me to them, and prepared me breakfast in the temples in which I had set up my drawing apparatus : in short, I appeared like the kind master of a garden, which contained in reality all that one seeks to imitate in decorated gardens in Europe : here were islets, rocks, deserts, plains, meadows, garden-ground, open groves, hamlets, dark woods, remarkable and numerous plants, a river, canals, mills, and sublime ruins ; a spot still more enchanting, as, like the gardens of Armida, it was surrounded with all the horrors of nature, and those of the Thebaïs, the contrast with which increased the enjoyment of this delightful island. Having all my senses and my imagination equally in activity, I never passed hours more deliciously occupied than those which I devoted to my solitary walks at Elephantina ; an island which alone is worth more than the whole territory on shore of the country which lies adjacent to the town.

The population of Syene, the town in Elephantina where the army was established, is numerous : the trade, however, is confined to senna and dates, and these two articles produce a sufficient return to pay all the other wants of the inhabitants, to maintain a *kiachef*, a governor, and a Turkish garrison. The senna which grows around Syene is of moderate quality ; when sold, it is fraudulently mixed with that which grows wild in the Desert, brought hither by the Barabra, and sold at nearly a hundredth part

of what we give for it in Europe. The second article of exportation is that of dates; they are small and dry, but so abundant, that, besides making the principal food of the inhabitants here, large boats loaded with them are daily going down the river to Lower Egypt.

The famous Cataracts, which form the bar to the higher navigation of the Nile, are very insignificant, and undeserving the appellation.

After passing the cataracts the rocks grow loftier, and on their summit rocks of granite are heaped up, appearing to cluster together, and to hang in equipoise, on purpose to produce the most picturesque effects. Through these rough and rugged forms the eye all at once discovers the magnificent monuments of the island of Philœ, which form a brilliant contrast, and one of the most singular surprises that the traveller can meet with. The Nile here makes a bend, as if to come and visit this enchanting island, where the monuments are only separated by tufts of palm-trees, or rocks that appear to be left merely to contrast the forms of nature with the magnificence of art, and to collect, in one rich spot, every thing that is most beautiful and impressive.

I had already seen enough of Ethiopia, of the Gublis and their wives, whose extreme ugliness can only be equalled by the savage jealousy of their husbands. I saw some of the women. They had been taken by surprise at the sudden arrival of our people at the close of evening, and had not had time to fly and hide themselves in the rocks, or to swim across the river. They appeared to have the sullen stupidity of downright savages. A rugged soil, fatigue and insufficient food, must doubtless impair in them all the charms of nature, and give them even in youth the marks of decrepitude. But the men seem to be of another species; for their features are delicate, their skin fine, their countenance lively and animated, and their

eyes and teeth admirable. Lively and intelligent, they appear to throw so much clearness and conciseness in their language, that a short phrase is always a complete answer to questions that are put to them : they are quick in understanding and serving, still more nimble in thieving, and have a greediness for money which keeps pace with their great frugality, and can only be justified by their extreme poverty. To these reasons we may impute their leanness, which is not at all connected with ill health, for their colour, though black, is full of life and blood ; but their muscles are only tendons, absolutely without fat, so that I did not see a single person among them who was even plump.

We have hitherto passed over the engagements between the French and the Mamelukes; but the following affair with the Philoese shows such traits of national character, that they must be interesting to our readers.

We had another parley with the inhabitants of Philœe, and it was more explicit : they signified to us, that if we were to come there every day for two months successively, they would never let us land. We were obliged to submit this time to their determination ; but as it would have given a bad example to the country to allow a handful of peasants to brave us with such insolence close by our establishments, we resolved on the next day to try if we could not make them change their determination. Accordingly, on the morrow we returned with two hundred men: as soon as they saw us, they put themselves in a posture of defence, and defied us in the manner of savages, with loud cries, which the women repeated. The inhabitants of the neighbouring larger island immediately collected in arms, which they made to glitter in the sun like sword-players ; some of them were quite naked, holding in one hand a sabre, and in the other a buckler, others had rampart-musquets with matchlocks, and long pikes, and in a moment

all the east side of the rock was covered with enemies. We still cried out to them that we were not coming to do them any harm, and we only wanted to enter amicably into their island; they answered that they would never let us approach, or furnish us with the means of landing on their shores, and that they were not Mamelukes, to fly before us: this bragging speech was closed with loud shouts which resounded on all sides; they wished for the fight; they had defended themselves against the Mamelukes; they had defeated their neighbours; and they now wished to have the glory of resisting us, and even giving us defiance. Immediately the order was given to our sappers to level the huts on the shore, to furnish us with wood for a raft: this act was a declaration of war; they fired on us, and posting themselves in the clefts and caves of their rocks, they kept up a brisk and well-directed fire on us. At this moment one of our field-pieces came up, the first sight of which carried their rage to the highest pitch: but from this time the communication between Philœ and the larger island was broken, the people of the latter drove off their herds and cattle, made them cross an arm of the river, and followed them into the Desert.

We found that the palm-tree wood was too heavy and took water, which compelled us to defer the descent till the next day; and in the mean time our troops remained on the shore, and every necessary was collected in order to construct a raft to hold forty men. This business employed us the whole of the following day; and this delay increased the insolence of these wretches, who dared to propose to the general to pay a hundred piastres to be allowed to come alone and unarmed into the island. The scene, however, was soon changed, when on a sudden they saw the larger island covered with our volunteers, whose descent had been protected by grape-shot; terror succeeded, as usual, to headstrong rashness;

men, women, and children, all threw themselves into the river to escape by swimming; and preserving their ferocious character, we saw mothers drowning their children whom they could not carry away with them, and mutilating the girls to save them from the violence of the victors. When I entered on the island the next day, I found a young girl seven or eight years old, who had been cut with brutal cruelty in such a manner, as to prevent her from satisfying the most pressing necessity of nature, and it was only by a counter-operation and a bath, that I was able to save the life of this unfortunate little creature, who was very pretty. Others of a more advanced age had not recourse to such severities, and chose for themselves companions from among the victors. In a word, the population of the island was dispersed in a few minutes, having suffered a most serious and irreparable loss.

The ruins in the island of Philœ consist of a small sanctuary, faced by a portico of four columns with very elegant capitals, to which had been added at a later period another portico, doubtless attached to the circumvallation of the temple. The most ancient part was also constructed with more care, and ornamented in a higher degree than the rest; the use made of it in the rites of the Catholic religion has impaired the original character, by adding square arched door-ways. In the sanctuary, close to the figures of Isis and Osiris, may still be seen the miraculous impression of the feet of St. Anthony, or St. Paul the hermit.

The next day was the finest to me of my whole travels: I possessed eight monuments in the space of six hundred yards, and could examine them quite at my ease. I found a convincing proof that this group of monuments had been constructed at different periods, by several nations, and had belonged to different forms of religious worship; and the union of

these various edifices, each of them in itself regular, and crowded together in this narrow spot, formed an irregular group of most picturesque and magnificent objects. I could here distinguish eight sanctuaries or separate temples, of different dimensions, built at various times, and the limits of each had been respected in the construction of the succeeding ones, which had impaired the regularity of the whole. A part of the additions to the original buildings had been made with a view of connecting the old to the new, avoiding, with great dexterity, false angles and general irregularities. This kind of confusion of the architectural lines, which appear like errors in the plan, produce in the elevation a picturesque effect, which geometrical rectitude cannot give; it multiplies objects, forms elegant groups, and offers to the eye more richness than cold symmetry can ever command. I was here able to convince myself of the truth of a remark which I had before made at Thebes and Tentyra, which is, that the mode of building with the ancient Egyptians was, first to erect large masses, on which they afterwards bestowed the labour of ages, in the particulars of the decoration, beginning their work with shaping the architectural lines, proceeding next to the sculpture of the hieroglyphics, and concluding with the stucco and the painting. All these distinct periods of work are very obvious here, where nothing is finished but what belongs to the highest antiquity: whereas a part of the subordinate buildings, which served to connect the various monuments, had been left in many particulars without finish, without sculpture, and even incomplete in the building.

A great and magnificent oblong monument exhibits these different periods of workmanship: it would be difficult to assign any use to this edifice, if the presence of certain monuments representing offerings had not pointed it out to be a temple.

As it was doubtless built in the later period of the

Egyptian power, it shows the perfection of art in the highest purity; the capitals are admirable in beauty and execution, the volutes and the foliage are gracefully waved, like the finest Greek architecture, and are symmetrically diversified like those of Apollinopolis, that is to say, differing from the contiguous capitals, and similar to the corresponding ones, and all are exactly kept within the same parallel.

There were two temples standing apart; the larger of the two I have just spoken of, the smaller is one of the most beautiful that can be conceived, in perfect preservation. I found within it some remains of a domestic scene, which seemed to be that of Joseph and Mary, and suggested to me the subject of the Flight into Egypt, in a style of the utmost truth and interest. If ever we should be disposed to transport a temple from Africa to Europe, this which I am speaking of should be selected for the purpose; for, besides the practicability of such an operation afforded by its small dimensions, it would give a convincing proof of the noble simplicity of the Egyptian architecture; and would show in a striking manner, that it is character, and not extent alone, which gives dignity to an edifice.

Besides the Egyptian monuments, Greek and Roman ruins are found at the south-east of the island, which appear to me to be the remains of a small port, and a custom-house, of which the wall of the façade is decorated with pilasters and arcades of the Doric order: some standing fragments of columns show an open gallery, or a kind of portico in front; between these ruins and the Egyptian monuments, the sur-base of a Catholic church may be remarked, which is built of antique fragments, mixed with crosses and Greek ornaments of later ages; for in these countries catholicism has been too poor to remove entirely her own worship from the pomp of idolatrous temples. After having established her saints in the face of the Egyptian deities, she has

often painted a St. John or a St. Paul by the side of the goddess Isis, and disguised Osiris into St. Athanasius; or else, quitting the heathen temples altogether, she has dilapidated them, and taken the ready-made materials to construct her own edifices of religious worship. In fact, these pious transmigrations are not uncommon even in imperial Rome, where we find Rhea with young Jove in her arms converted into a Madonna and child, and Saturn metamorphosed into Joseph, the husband of the Virgin.

The termination of the march of the French through Egypt was inscribed on a granite rock beyond the cataracts. I took advantage of a reconnoitring party being pushed to the Desert on the left bank, to go and visit the quarries of which Pococke speaks, and an ancient monastery of cenobites. After marching an hour, we discovered this monument in a small valley, surrounded with shattered rocks, and with sands produced by their decomposition. The detachment, pursuing its destination, left me alone in this spot.

They were hardly gone when I was alarmed at my solitary situation. I was lost among long corridors; and these melancholy vaults echoed with the sound of my feet, the only noise with which this profound silence had been disturbed perhaps for ages. The cells of these monks resembled the cages of animals in a menagerie; they were recesses seven feet square, lighted by a dismal window six feet from the ground. This refinement of austerity, however, only concealed from the eye of the recluse the view of the vast expanse of heaven, an equally boundless horizon of sand, and a bright uninterrupted light as melancholy as night, more wasting to the corporeal frame, and perhaps more impressive of the gloomy picture of their solitude. In this dungeon a bed of bricks, and a recess serving as a closet, were all the con-

conveniences which had been added to this space between four walls; and a tower placed by the side of the gate, shows also that even the austere repast of these cenobites was taken in solitude. Nothing indicated the remains of the habitation of man but some short sentences written on the walls; and I fancied that I could trace in these inscriptions their last sentiments, and the only memorial which they would leave to those who were to succeed them—a vain attempt, which time, that destroys every thing, has entirely frustrated. I presented them to my imagination as dying, and still striving, with fluttering speech, to utter a few words. Oppressed with this succession of gloomy objects, I hastened to the court, a space enclosed with lofty embattled walls, covert ways, and embrasures for cannon; every thing announced that the storms of war had succeeded the horrors of silence in this fatal place; that this edifice, torn from the cenobites, who had raised it with so much zeal and perseverance, had at different periods served as a retreat to the vanquished, or as an advanced post to the victorious army.

On our march to meet Osman-Bey, who, we were informed, was to pass the Nile at Keneh, I had again the mortification of crossing the ground occupied by the ancient Thebes, with still less opportunity of examining it than at first. We followed the course of the Nile, avoiding both the temples of Medinet-Abu, the Memnonium, the temples of Kernu, which I passed on my left, and those of Luxor and Karnak on my right—still temples—nothing but temples! and not a vestige of the hundred gates so celebrated in history; no walls, quays, bridges, baths, or theatres; not a single edifice of public utility or convenience. Notwithstanding all the pains which I took in the research, I could find nothing but temples, walls covered with obscure emblems, and hieroglyphics, attesting the ascendancy of the priesthood,

who still seemed to reign over these mighty ruins, and whose empire constantly haunted my imagination.

The space occupied by this incomprehensible town now infolds four villages and as many hamlets, which appear thinly scattered over vast fields, as a few wild shoots recall to the passenger the existence of some stately tree celebrated by the majesty of its shade or the abundance of its fruit.

An interesting account is now given of an attack on the town of Benhut, which, after an obstinate resistance, was burnt by the French under general Beliard. The details we pass over as usual, but insert the two following particulars, illustrative of national character.

Our troops entered by the breaches made by the fire, and put to the sword those who, though they were half-roasted alive, still offered resistance. One of them, who appeared to be a chief, was brought to the general. He was in so swollen a state, that, in endeavouring to seat himself, his skin cracked in every part. "If," said he, "I am brought hither to be killed, I beg that you will hasten to put me out of my misery." He was accompanied by a slave, who regarded his master with so deep an expression of grief, that I felt an esteem both for one and the other. The dangers by which this slave was surrounded could not draw aside for a moment his affectionate concern for his master. He lived for him alone: he viewed him, and could see no other object. What looks! how tender and how deep a melancholy! How good must he have been who was thus cherished by his slave! However deplorable his lot, I could not help envying him who was thus beloved!

While the fate of such of the inhabitants of Benhut as had remained quietly there was under discussion, as well as that of those who had fled, I was not a little surprised at finding, at the posts that we occu-

pied in the village, several women in the company of our soldiers, whose ease and gaiety I considered as an illusion. I could scarcely persuade myself that they were not familiar with our language. Each of them had made her choice freely, and they all appeared perfectly well satisfied. Some of them were very pretty; and it was so novel a thing to be fed, attended, and well treated by their conquerors, that I am of opinion they would willingly have followed the army. To *belong* is so entirely their destiny, that nothing but a sense of obedience could have induced them afterwards to return under the nomination of their fathers and husbands. In such a strange predicament, they are not received with that scrupulously inexorable jealousy which characterizes the orientals. "It was owing to the war," say they, "that we were unable to defend them. They have submitted to the law of the vanquishers, and are not more tarnished on that account, than we are dishonoured by the wounds that we have received." In this way they again enter the harem; and there is never any altercation about what has passed. By such nice distinctions as these jealousy is refined, and becomes a noble passion, of which man may even boast.

The hopes of seeing Thebes in the direction of which we were to march, made me joyfully turn my back once more on Cairo. It was my destiny to attach myself to those who were to proceed the greatest distance up the country, and I accordingly followed general Beliard. I was soon after to join once more general Desaix; and on the evening before we parted, we formed a thousand projects for the future. Our adieus were, however, of a melancholy cast; and on this occasion our separation was to me more distressing than ever. Could I imagine that, young as he was, it would fall to his lot to leave me in the career which I had to run, and that I should remain to regret his loss? We separated, and I have

never seen him since. Our detachment had proceeded a league, when the brave Latournerie galloped up to me; he came back to bid me adieu. We had a great affection for each other; and, moved as I was by this mark of his tenderness, I was, notwithstanding, struck by his emotion. We did not embrace each other without shedding a few tears. The profession of arms may harden those whose temperament is cold and frigid; but its horrors do not weaken the sensibility of tender souls. Connexions formed amid the hardships and dangers of an expedition such as that of Egypt become unchangeable. The parties enter into a bond of fellowship; and when this union is cemented still more by a conformity of character, fate cannot destroy it without embittering the remainder of life.

On entering the Desert we proceeded to an enclosure, which had in the first instance been an entrenched convent inhabited by Copts, which had afterwards become a mosque, and had been latterly employed as a burial-ground. After having taken up our lodging within this enclosure, we employed ourselves in driving away the bats, and in throwing down the tomb-stones. A fortress, a desert, and tombs! We were surrounded by the most dismal objects in the world; and if, with a view to banish the melancholy impression with which these scenes had inspired us, we occasionally went out at night to breathe for a few moments a purer air, our respiration was the only sound that disturbed the tranquillity of the void by which we were terrified. The wind, fleeting over this vast horizon without meeting with any other objects than ourselves, brought to our remembrance, in its silent motion, and amid the darkness of the night, the immense and dismal vacuity by which we were surrounded.

A few merchants who had had the good fortune to save their packets from the grasp of the Mamelukes, were not without their apprehensions relative to us.

Having been denounced by the sheiks of Nagadi, they brought us presents, and were still more terrified by our refusal to accept them. Being accustomed to the sight of persons covered with gold, by whom they were laid under contribution, and seeing us pretty nearly in the garb of a banditti of robbers, they fancied that we were going to plunder them. It was at the same time impossible for them to conceal their riches. Our portmanteaus having been captured on board the flotilla, we were in want of linen, and requested them to open their bales. Every hope on their side was now vanished. We made choice of what would suit us, and asked them the price of the quantity of each article which we should need. They replied, that they left this entirely to ourselves; but on our persisting to know the lowest price, which we paid them as soon as they had satisfied us, they were so surprised, that they felt their money, to be certain that what had passed was not a dream. Armed men with the power in their hands, who paid!—they might have passed through every part of Asia and of Africa, without meeting with any thing so extraordinary. From that moment we acquired their full esteem and confidence. They came to prepare our breakfast, brought us Indian and Arabian sweetmeats, and cocoa-nuts, and made us the best coffee it was possible to drink. This combination of wretchedness and luxury, this motley state in which we lived, was not destitute of its share of interest. There is no situation in the world which cannot boast its enjoyments; and for this truth I appeal to the tombs of Nagadi.

Nagadi is a point which it is important to occupy; and must naturally become the most frequent route of the Desert, since it is the shortest by one day. A messenger who sets out from Cosseir may reach Nagadi in two days by the help of a dromedary, and in three days on foot. As nothing is to be found at Cosseir, the merchant who lands there, in returning from Gidda, is very anxious to reach the bank of the Nile; and the most expeditious means appearing to



A MERCHANT

him to be the best, he sends to Nagadi to procure camels, which may reach him on the sixth day. When we were there, the price was a dollar for the conveyance of a hundred weight of merchandize, each camel carrying four hundreds—a price which varies according to the more or less flourishing state of commerce, as does also that of the camels, which would at that time bring twenty dollars only, instead of sixty which they cost before our arrival in Egypt. This may give an idea of the distressed state of affairs, and how much Mecca, Medina, and Gidda, must have suffered from the disturbances in that country. We who boasted that we were more just than the Mamelukes, committed daily and almost necessarily a great number of iniquitous acts. The difficulty of distinguishing our enemies by their exterior form and colour, was the cause of our continually putting to death innocent peasants. The soldiers who were sent out on scouting parties, frequently mistook for Mec-cans the poor merchants belonging to a caravan, with whom they fell in; and before justice could be done them, which in some cases the time and circumstances would not allow, two or three of them had been shot, a part of their merchandize either plundered or pilfered, and their camels exchanged for ours which had been wounded. The gains which resulted from these outrages fell inevitably to the share of the blood-suckers of the army, the civil commissaries, Copts, and interpreters; the soldiers, who sought every opportunity to enrich themselves, being constantly obliged to abandon and forget their projects, by the drum beating to arms, the trumpet sounding to horse. The situation of the inhabitants, for whose happiness and prosperity we were no doubt come to Egypt, was no better. If, through terror, they had been obliged to quit their houses on our approach, on their return, after we were withdrawn, they could find nothing but the mud of which the walls were formed. Utensils, ploughs, doors, roofs, every thing, in short, of a com-

bustible nature, had been burned for cooking; and the earthen pots broken, the corn consumed, and the fowls and pigeons roasted and devoured. Nothing was to be found except the bodies of their dogs, killed in endeavouring to defend the property of their masters. If we made any stay in a village, the unfortunate inhabitants who had fled on our approach, were summoned to return, under penalty of being treated as rebels who had joined the enemy, and of being made to pay double contributions. When they submitted to these threats, and came to pay the *miri*, it sometimes happened that they were so numerous as to be mistaken for a body of men in arms, and their clubs considered as muskets; in which case they were sure of being assailed by several discharges from the riflemen and patrols, before an explanation could take place. Those who were killed were interred; and the survivors remained friends with us, until a proper opportunity presented itself for retaliation. It is true that, provided they did not quit their dwellings, but paid the *miri*, and supplied the wants of the army, they not only spared themselves the trouble of a journey, and avoided the unpleasant abode of the Desert, but saw their provisions eaten with regularity, and might come in for their portion of them, preserving a part of their doors, selling their eggs to the soldiers, and having few of their wives and daughters ravished. In this case, however, the attachment that they had shown us was considered as culpable, inasmuch that when the Mamelukes came after us, they did not leave them a crown piece, a horse, or a camel; and frequently the sheik of the village forfeited his life for the pretended partiality which was imputed to him. It was very necessary for these poor wretches that such a state of things should terminate, and a new one be established: but how could this be done while the Mamelukes refused to fight us, and while fanatic and half-starved bands, such as those of the Meccans, resorted to their standard?

We arrived at Karnac, a village built on a small part of the site of a single temple, the circumference of which would require half an hour to walk round.

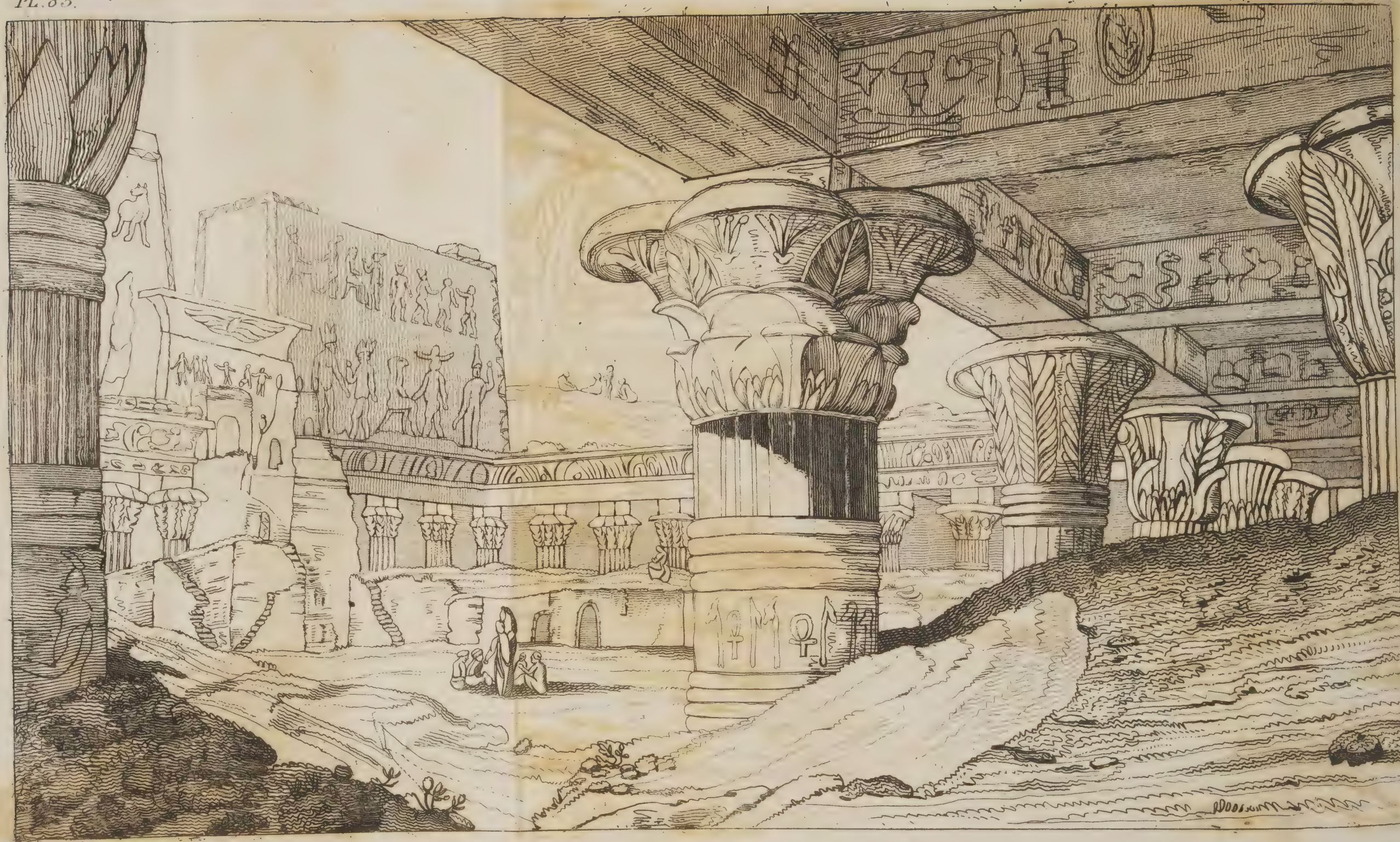
To the known descriptions of this great edifice of Karnac should be added, that it was but a temple, and could be nothing else. All that exists at present in a somewhat entire state relates to a very small sanctuary, and had been disposed in this way to inspire a due degree of veneration, and to become a kind of tabernacle. On beholding the vast extent of these ruins the imagination is wearied with the idea of describing them. Of the hundred columns of the portico alone of this temple, the smallest are seven feet and a half in diameter, and the largest twelve. The space occupied by its circumvallation contains lakes and mountains. In short, to be enabled to form a competent idea of so much magnificence, it is necessary that the reader should fancy what is before him to be a dream, as he who views the objects themselves rubs his eyes to know whether he is awake. With respect to the present state of this edifice, it is, however, necessary at the same time to observe, that a great part of the effect is lost by its very degraded state. The sphinxes have been wantonly mutilated, with a few exceptions, which barbarism, wearied with destroying, has spared, and on examining which it is easy to distinguish that some of them had a woman's head, others that of a lion, a ram, a bull, &c. The avenue which leads from Karnac to Luxor was of this latter description; and this space, which is nearly half a league in extent, contains a constant succession of these chimerical figures to the right and left, together with fragments of stone walls, of small columns, and of statues.

Luxor, the finest village in these environs, is also built on the site of the ruins of a temple, not so large as that of Karnac, but in a better state of preservation, the masses not having as yet fallen through time, and by the pressure of their own weight. The most

colossal parts consist of fourteen columns of nearly eleven feet in diameter, and of two statues in granite, at the outer gate, buried up to the middle of the arms, and having in front of them the two largest and best preserved obelisks known.

A peculiarity belonging to the temple of Luxor is, that a quay, provided with an epaulment, secured the eastern part, which was near the river, from the damages that the inundations might otherwise have occasioned. The epaulment, which since its original structure has been repaired and augmented in brick work, proves that the river has not changed its bed; and its preservation is an evidence that the Nile has never been banked by other quays, since no traces of similar constructions are elsewhere to be met with.

I next proceeded to view the temple or temples of Chenubis, the ruins of which, as well as those of the city itself, are in so disjointed a state, and so varied in their proportions, that it is very difficult to form any correct idea of their plan. The most considerable and most elevated parts consist of six columns, the capitals of three of which belly out, while those of the three others, which are parallel to them, are guttered, and united by an entablature, as far as I could distinguish in passing in a bark. On a nearer view I could perceive that they had not been built at the same time, and that those which have guttered capitals have never been finished, and were added as a gallery to the others. In the front of this fragment of ruins, to the south, are the bases of a portico, which also appear not to have been finished; and in the same direction is a block of granite which seems to have belonged to a colossal statue. In an eastern direction I met with a basin of water, the circumference of which is lined and decorated by a gallery formed of columns. In the western part of the city the gate of a sanctuary presents itself, together with two very minute fragments, of the nature of which I could not satisfy myself. In the front is a lining



INSIDE OF THE GREAT TEMPLE AT APOLLINOPOLIS MAGNA.

in the form of a quay on the Nile. Among these architectural ruins are several ruins of sculpture, among others a group of two figures coupled together, three feet in height, the heads of which have been broken off. What is most noticeable at Chenubis is an enclosure, the walls of which are built of unbaked bricks, and are of a conical shape, having at their base a thickness of upwards of twenty-seven feet. This extraordinary work, of which history makes no mention, is in many parts in an entire state. I apprehended at first sight, that it was of Arabic construction: but as there are no ruins nor traces of Arabic edifices on the site of Chenubis, it is presumable that it is a work of high antiquity, and in this case there is no occasion to construct fortifications of any other description in Egypt, with the exceptions of the jambs and embrasures, together with such other parts as are exposed to friction. In this instance all the great masses have completely resisted the ravages of time, and may still be employed in any defensive measures. I was obliged to quit this spot precipitately, cursing the war, the soldiery, and the importance of their operations, which invariably forced me to abandon the most interesting objects, to set out on the ineffectual pursuit of an enemy, who made more progress in one day than we did in three, and to whom we had left all the passages open.

A party being ordered to proceed to Etfu, I accompanied the party, in the hope of viewing at my leisure the sublime temple of Apollinopolis, the most beautiful of all Egypt, and, next to those of Thebes, the largest. Being built at a period when the arts and sciences had acquired all their splendour, the workmanship of every part is equally beautiful, the hieroglyphics are admirably executed, the figures more varied, and the architecture of a higher order than in the Theban edifices, the building of which must be referred to an earlier age.

Nothing can be more simply beautiful than the

outlines, nothing more picturesque than the effect produced in the elevation, by the various dimensions belonging to each member of the harmonious whole. This superb edifice is seated on a rising ground, so as to overlook not only its immediate vicinity, but the whole valley, and at the foot of this greater temple, but on a considerably lower level, is a smaller one, at present almost buried: the only part still visible is in a hollow surrounded with rubbish, where may be seen a little portico of two columns, and as many pilasters, a peristyle, and the sanctuary of the temple inclosed within a pilastered gallery. A single column, with its capital rising from the ruins, to the height of forty feet above the portico, and the angle of a wall a hundred feet beyond, show that there formerly existed a court in front of the temple.

On the following day, after marching a few hours, I came once more in sight of the majestic ruins of Thebes, and made a drawing of them, from a situation where the buildings on each side of the river were visible from Karnac to Medinet-Abu, occupying an extent of two leagues. There is another ruin to the north-east, at the village of Guedime, half a league in the rear, which makes the whole length of the monuments and other remains of this ancient city equal to about eight miles. We stopped at Karnac, and I lost no time in profiting of my good fortune. Not being able of myself to lay down the plan, nor draw comprehensive views of this mighty mass of ruins, which at first sight resembles a heap of sculptured mountains, I employed the two hours of our stay here in delineating the historical bas-reliefs, and in acquiring an accurate idea of the style and composition of this primitive sculpture, and of the state of the art at a period so remote, as to make it probable that these are some of its most ancient productions.

The fragments in the highest preservation are the following: A hero, perhaps a Pharaoh, Memnon,

Osymandyas, or Sesostris, is seen combating alone from a car in pursuit of people at a distance, with beards, and clothed in long tunics; he forces them into a marsh, and obliges the rest to take shelter in a fortress. In the fragment, No. 1. he overthrows their chief, already wounded with an arrow. In No. 2. he returns bringing back the captives. In No. 4. he presents them fettered to the three divinities, by whose protection he has obtained the victory; for it is to be observed, that in all the above actions his arms are always accompanied and guarded by one or two emblematical hawks. The divinity to whom he presents the fruit of his conquest is that of Abundance, under the figure of Priapus, holding a flail in his right hand, a god to whom the temple of Karnac, the largest in Thebes, and probably one of the greatest and oldest that was ever constructed, is dedicated. From the very sanctuary to the outer walls of the building this divinity is represented *by his least equivocal characteristic*. It was also my wish to draw the bas-relief, representing a ship navigated by sailors; but it is too much dilapidated, and destitute of any accompaniments from which its latent meaning might be educed. The day was advancing, and we had not yet taken any refreshment: heroes of romance might have done without, but to modern soldiers food is no superfluity. While we were thus employed, the sun gained so far upon us, that we resolved to pass the night at Karnac. I immediately returned to my interesting task; I surveyed the ruins, and was convinced that a whole week's application would not be too much to construct a plan of the edifices comprehended in this single circumvallation.

I had not time to measure by rule the extent of ground occupied by these buildings, but I found repeatedly that twenty-five minutes were required to encompass them on full trot. The passage through the circumvallation or exterior walls was by six gates

that yet remain, three of which were preceded by avenues of sphinxes: within the circuit was contained not only the great temple, but three others entirely distinct from it, having each its own gates, porticoes, courts, avenues, and boundary wall—What was their use? Were they temples or palaces? Were their sovereigns lodged in the porticoes of the temples, or were their palaces similar in construction to the sacred edifices; or, perhaps, from their superior lightness, unable to resist the injuries of time? It is at least obvious, that if they did really inhabit these buildings, which from their distribution may be regarded as dependencies of the great temple, their accommodations were by no means to be envied. Large courts with open galleries, and porticoes formed by narrow intercolumniations, could not be very pleasant to live in: the few chambers that there are, of small dimensions, destitute of air and light, and covered with pious allegories, were but little calculated to attract the eye or please the imagination. Another objection is, that some of these dark chambers contained little tabernacles, in which, no doubt, were inclosed either the figure of the divinity or the particular animal emblematical of it, or the sacred treasure; and to any of these none but the priests would be admitted. Probably, therefore, the vast circuit of these buildings was occupied by numerous colleges of priests, the depositaries of the science, the power and the influence of the country.

What monotony! what melancholy wisdom! what austere gravity of manners! I still admire with awe the organization of such a government; its stupendous remains yet excite the mingled sensations of respect and dread. The divinity, in sacerdotal habits, holds in one hand a hook, and in the other a flail; the former, no doubt, to restrain, and the latter to punish: every thing is measured by the law, and enchained by it. The fine arts, subject to the same severe restrictions, bend under the weight of fetters,

and their soaring genius is pinioned to the earth. The unveiled emblem of generation, traced even in the sanctuary of the temples, announces, that to destroy pleasure it was converted into a duty : not a single circus, not a single theatre, not a single edifice for public recreation ; but temples, mysteries, initiations, priests, sacrifices ; ceremonies for pleasures ; for luxury, sepulchres.

After traversing the building for the purpose of gaining an accurate idea of its architectural details, I found myself at the south-western extremity of the circumvallation, where the other smaller temples are situated. I entered one of them, and was struck with a new sensation of astonishment. Behind two buttresses is an open portico of twenty-eight columns, ungraceful in its proportions, but rendered imposing by its severity of style : so true is it in architecture, that where the lines are long, few, and uninterrupted, the effect is always grand and striking. At the end of this first portico is a large open door, leading to a second colonnade of eight pillars in two rows, still more grave in their proportions, and whose character is rendered more terrible by their awful depth of shade ; beyond this is a long narrow passage, succeeded by two others, each darker than the preceding ; and at the extremity of all is a subterranean sanctuary, which appears to the imagination as the asylum of terror, the temple of the Eumenidæ. The whole of this monument is separated from the rest by a boundary wall. I had not yet seen the tombs of the kings ; but I could not enter upon the search without a guard of soldiers, and the troops were unhappily fatigued beyond measure by the repeated forced marches that they had undergone. I was, therefore, obliged to trust to future favourable circumstances, and in the sequel fortune was propitious to my wishes. At day-break I found myself sufficiently near Guedime to see the ruin there, consisting of four columns, still surmounted by three massy stones of the enta-

biature, in front of which are visible the foundations of two buttresses, at present a shapeless mass of fragments. These are the only remnants of a monument, whose chief merit at present is to serve as a fixed point from which to compute the vast extent of the Theban monuments.

Desaix issued a proclamation, announcing that the corn lands whose crops while green had been eaten up either by the Mamelukes or French, should be excused from the tribute—an equitable regulation, which from its novelty equally surprised and pleased the cultivators; and the good-will of the inhabitants was entirely conciliated, by allowing them to dress according to their own fancy and their means, without any rank's forfeiting its peculiar privileges. The merchants of Cosseir, who had hitherto concealed themselves, now quitted their town, and came to purchase corn at Keneh; those of Gidda arrived in their vessels, laden with coffee, and both paid without reluctance the duties, which were no longer arbitrary. In fine, we began to see money arrive without the use of bayonets, and our magazines and parks to be stored with straw, barley, and cattle; while the village chiefs promised us, in the name of the cultivators, that the country now barren and dry, should become the next year verdant with herbage, and covered with crops of which the tribute alone should surpass the whole of this year's harvest.

We arrived at Keneh, where we found a number of merchants of all nations. By intercourse with the natives of different countries, remote distances seem to be contracted; and when we begin to reckon the days required for the journey, and the necessary means of effecting it, the space to be passed over ceases to be immense. We no sooner find ourselves actually engaged, than many difficulties, formidable at first, insensibly diminish, and at length disappear. The Red Sea, Gidda, Mecca, seemed like neighbouring places to the town where we were; and India

itself was but a short way beyond them. In the opposite direction the oases were actually no more than three days journey off us, and ceased to appear to our imagination as an undiscovered country. From oasis to oasis, by easy marches of one or two days, we arrived at Senaar, one of the capitals of Nubia, which separates Egypt from Abyssinia and Darfur, the latter of which countries is in the road to and trades with Tombuctoo, whose inhabitants are the chief object, in Africa, of European curiosity, and whose very existence was till lately problematical.

In my wanderings on the banks of the Nile I saw a great number of crocodiles of all sizes, from three to twenty-six or twenty-eight feet in length: many officers worthy of credit assured me that they met with one no less than forty feet long. They are by no means so ferocious as is pretended: their favourite resorts are the low islands of the river, where they are seen basking in the sun (the most intense heat of which appears highly grateful to them) by numbers at a time, asleep and motionless as so many logs of wood, surrounded by birds, who appear totally unmindful of them. What is the food of these large animals? Many stories are related of them, but we have not yet had an opportunity of verifying a single one. Daring even to imprudence, our soldiers set them at defiance; even I myself bathed daily in the Nile; for the tranquil nights that I thus obtained, rendered me regardless of dangers which we had not as yet verified by a single fact. If the crocodiles had devoured a few of the carcasses which the war left at their disposal, such a food, it might be imagined, would only excite their appetite, and engage them to pursue when alive so favourite a prey; and yet we were never once attacked by them, nor did we ever meet with a single crocodile at a distance from the water. Hence it appears probable that they find in the Nile itself a sufficient quantity of easily procurable food, which they digest slowly, being, like the

lizard and serpent, cold-blooded and of an inactive stomach. Besides, having in the Egyptian part of the Nile no enemies but each other and man, they would be truly formidable, if, covered as they are with an almost impenetrable defensive armour, they were alert and skilful in making use of those which nature has given them for attack. When I left Keneh, general Beliard had a young one in his possession no more than six inches long, which yet already began to show its native ferocity. I was afterwards informed by the general, that it lived four months without eating, without appearing to suffer, without appearing to grow, or to become leaner, and to the last was as untractable as ever.

The Denderites refusing to pay the tribute, a hundred men were sent thither, whom I accompanied. From Dendera to the ruins of Tentyra is only twenty minutes ride; this latter place, from its ancient monuments, is called by the Arabs, Berbeh. We arrived at the town in the evening, and the next morning, with a guard of thirty men, I went to the ruins, and this time took possession of them in the plenitude of repose and quiet. I was first of all delighted to find that my enthusiastic admiration of the great temple was not an illusion produced by the novelty of its appearance, since, after having seen all the other Egyptian monuments, this still appeared the most perfect in its execution, and constructed at the happiest period of the arts and sciences: every thing in it is laboured, is interesting, is important. As my time here was very limited, I began with drawing what had been the principal object in my journey hither, the celestial planisphere, which occupies part of the ceiling of a little apartment, built over the nave of the great temple. The floor being low and the room dark, I was able to work at it only a few hours in the day; but neither this, nor the multiplicity of the details, and the great care required in not confounding them by the necessity of viewing them in

so inconvenient a posture, abated my ardour: the desire of bringing to the philosophers of my native country the copy of an Egyptian bas-relief of so much importance, made me patiently endure the tormenting position required in its delineation. I copied also the rest of the ceiling, which is divided into two equal parts, by a large figure that seems to be an Isis: her feet rest upon the earth, her arms are extended towards heaven, and she appears to occupy all the space between. In another part of the ceiling is a large figure, probably representing heaven or the year, with its hands and feet on the same level, and enfolding with the curvature of the body fourteen globes, placed on as many boats, distributed over seven bands or zones, separated from each other by numberless hieroglyphics, but too much covered with stalactites and smoke to allow of being copied.

Behind this first chamber is a second, which receives light only through the door; this also is covered with most interesting and admirably executed hieroglyphical pictures. It is difficult to imagine what could be the use of this little edifice, so carefully finished, and ornamented with pictures so evidently scientific: those on the ceilings appear to relate to the motions of the heavenly bodies, and those on the walls have probably some reference to the earth, and the influences of the air and water. The earth is universally represented by the figure of Isis, who was the presiding divinity in all the temples of Tentyra, and whose emblem or figure is found in every part: her head is seen forming the capital of the columns belonging to the portico, and the first chamber of the great temple: it is also in the centre of the astragal, and sculptured in gigantic proportions, on the outside of the foundation wall: it is the distinguishing object in the ornaments of the frieze and the cornice, and is conspicuous in all the pictures with her proper attributes. It is Isis to whom all the offerings are made, when they are not presented by

herself to her husband Osiris : her figure is inscribed on the outer gates of the enclosure, and to her are dedicated the little temples that are there represented. In that on the right hand of the entrance, she is triumphing over two evil genii ; in that which is behind the great temple, she is variously described as holding Horus in her arms, defending him from every hostile attempt, intrusting him only to figures like cows, and suckling him at every age, from infancy to puberty.

I copied an inscription in Greek characters on one of the outer gates to the south of the great temple, of which the following is a translation :

“ On account of the Emperor Cæsar, God, the son of Jupiter the Deliverer, when Publius Octavius being governor, Marcus Claudius Posthumus commander in chief, and Tryphon general, the deputies of the metropolis consecrated, in virtue of the law, the propylæum to Isis, the greatest of the goddesses, and to the associated gods of the temple, in the thirty-first year of Cæsar, on the sacred day of Thoth.”

Some days after my return from Tentyra, the cavalry was sent to protect a military chest, which was to be conveyed from Esneh to Keneh. I took advantage of this escort to go and visit Keft, or Copthos. I was struck on entering the town with the good preservation of its different monuments ; the ancient part still remains in the state in which it was left by the conflagration which terminated the long siege that destroyed it in the third century ; the old limits of the city have been abandoned, and to this has succeeded an Arab town, with a boundary wall of unbaked bricks, beyond which, verging to the west, was built the village of Keft, which still exists. Was Copthos the ancient name of this town ? And did the ancient Copts take their name from that of Copthos, where zeal collected their numbers, and made them sustain so obstinate and disastrous a siege in the time of Dioclesian ? I could evidently distinguish the dif-

ferent ruins of two temples of high antiquity, and those of a catholic church, in which taste and art in the construction were certainly less remarkable than the magnificence and richness of the materials employed: the fragments of porphyry and granite columns and pilasters, scattered over a vast space of ground, remain to attest the opulence and luxury of the first believers; but the sculpture on the Doric friezes, some fragments of which are still visible, show that at this period the efforts at embellishment, which art could command, only impoverished the sumptuous magnificence of the materials. All these monuments lie without form and order on the ground, excepting a few portions still left standing, and none of them would furnish me with a single subject for a drawing.

I have often heard speak of the *kamsin*, which may be termed the hurricane of Egypt and the Desert; it is equally terrible by the frightful spectacle which it exhibits when present, and by the consequences which follow its ravages. We had already passed with security one half of the season in which it appears, when in the evening of the 18th of May I felt myself entirely overcome by a suffocating heat; it seemed as if the fluctuation of the air was suddenly suspended. I went out to bathe, in order to overcome so painful a sensation, when I was struck on my arrival at the bank of the Nile, with a new appearance of nature around me; this was a light and colours which I had not yet seen. The sun, without being concealed, had lost its rays; it had even less lustre to the eye than the moon, and gave a pale light without shade; the water no longer reflected its rays, but appeared in agitation; every thing had changed its usual aspect; it was now the flat shore that seemed luminous, and the air dull and opaque; the yellow horizon showed the trees on its surface of dirty blue; flocks of birds were flying off before the cloud; the frightened animals ran loose in the country, followed by the

shouting inhabitants, who vainly attempted to collect them together again: the wind, which had raised this immense mass of vapour, and was urging it forward, had not yet reached us: we thought that by plunging our bodies in the water, which was then calm, we could prevent the baneful effects of this mass of dust, which was advancing from the south-west; but we had hardly entered the river when it began to swell all at once, as if it would overflow its channel; the waves passed over our heads, and we felt the bottom heave up under our feet; our clothes were conveyed away along with the shore itself, which seemed to be carried off by the whirlwind that had now reached us; we were compelled to leave the water; and our wet and naked bodies being beat upon by a storm of sand, were soon encrusted with a black mud, which prevented us from dressing ourselves: lighted only by a red and gloomy sun, with our eyes smarting, our noses stuffed up, and our throats clogged with dust, so that we could hardly breathe, we lost each other and our way home, and arrived at our lodgings at last one by one, groping our way, and guided only by the walls, which marked our track. We could now easily conceive the dreadful situation of those who are surprised with such a phænomenon of nature, when crossing the exposed and naked deserts; and we were so accustomed to the serene sky of Egypt, that we could hardly bear with any patience such a sudden transition.

The next day, the same mass of dust, attended with similar appearances, travelled along the desert of Libya: it followed the chain of the mountains; and when we flattered ourselves that we were entirely rid of this pestilence, the west wind brought it back, and once more overwhelmed us with this scorching torrent; the flashes of lightning appeared to pierce with difficulty through this dense vapour; all the elements seemed to be still in disorder; the rain was mixed with whirlwinds of fire, wind, and dust; and in

this time of confusion the trees and all the other productions of nature seemed to be again plunged in the horrors of chaos.

If the desert of Libya had sent us these clouds of dust, those on the east, on the contrary, had been inundated with water ; for the merchants who came from the borders of the Red Sea told us, that in the valleys they had the water up to the middle of their legs.

Two days after this disaster, we were told that the plain was covered with birds, which were passing on from east to west, like the close files of an army ; and, indeed, we saw at a distance the fields appear to move, like a broad torrent flowing through the country. Thinking that they might be some foreign birds, we hastened out to meet them ; but instead of birds we saw a cloud of locusts, who just skimmed the soil, stopping at each blade of grass to devour it, then flying off to new food. If it had been the season in which the corn was young and tender, this would have been a serious plague ; for these children of the Desert are as lean, as active, and as vigorous as the Bedouin Arabs : it would be interesting to know how they live, and produce such multitudes in so arid a desert : perhaps it was the rain that had fallen in the valleys which had suddenly hatched them, and had produced this emigration, just as certain winds bring swarms of gnats. The wind changing again in a contrary direction to their march, they were once more driven back into the Desert. These locusts are of a rose-colour, speckled with black, very strong, shy, and difficult to catch.

After a fatiguing journey through the Desert, a mist on the horizon pointed out to us the Asiatic coast, which, however, was too far to be at all discerned. The Ababdes Arabs, who had preceded us, had gone on before to give notice of our arrival to the inhabitants of Cosseir, and we saw them return with the sheiks of the town and their followers, driving before

them a flock of sheep, the first offering of peace and homage. The costume of the Cosseirans is the same as that of Mecca; the Ababdes were many of them naked, except a girdle round their loins, with a lance in their hands, and a dagger attached to the left arm; they sat with their legs crossed on the lofty saddle of their meagre dromedaries, forming a singular contrast with the Meccans, who had a graver air, wore a head-dress like the ancient Roman augurs, were wrapped up in long garments with broad stripes, and were mounted on large camels. As soon as the different parties met, every one dismounted; our troops put themselves in order of battle; and after an amicable conference of a few minutes, we went all together to take possession of the castle, on which the white standard of peace was waving. I had formed such an idea of a pitiful town and ruined castle in Cosseir, that, when I came to them, I thought the former almost splendid, and the castle a fort. This latter is an Arab edifice, built in the times of the caliphs, in the style of the fortifications of Alexandria, forming a square with four curtains, flanked with as many bastions, without ditches: but by adding a counterscarp to the present fortifications, the castle may resist the floating batteries and the troops which may be landed from the Red Sea. The port and road of Cosseir is formed by reefs, which defend it from the north-north-west winds, and a head-land that protects it from the south-south-east. It is open on the east and south-east. This head-land, or cape, is entirely of late formation, and is composed of nothing but madrepores, the greater number of which are of an enormous size. Nothing can describe in adequate terms the severe sadness of the country, the rigid aspect of the soil, and the insupportably dazzling reflection of the sun from the white shelly shore; and to see human beings in bustle and agitation in this barren spot, gives one a striking picture of the privations which avarice will endure in order to obtain

a superfluity. The Arab houses are composed of a few pieces of wood that support some miserable mats, under which the inhabitants live on shell-fish, and form all their household utensils of the shells; and even work them into boxes, which are not without elegance. It would have been interesting to have reconnoitred the road of Berenice, which was made at a great expense by the Ptolemies, forty leagues to the south, and afterwards abandoned for that of Cosseir, which, however, will only hold a small number of merchant ships of inferior size, as the depth of water is only two fathoms, and two and a half where it is deepest. To load the vessels, they are obliged to carry the goods in the arms of men a hundred and fifty paces from the shore, to put them on board boats, which afterwards have to take them to the vessels which are to be freighted. With all these inconveniencies, it might at first appear surprising, to find still some commercial activity in the huts and rubbish of Cosseir; but when we consider, that it is, after all, the best known port in the Red Sea, that it furnishes corn to Mecca, and receives the coffee of Yemen, that it is the point of contact between Asia and Africa, and might become the *entrepôt* of the merchandize of these parts of the world, it appears still more astonishing that any government can be so wastefully blind to its own resources, as to have thought of nothing but harassing, and vexing by impositions, a commerce, which would return such large interest for all that might be advanced to it. Neither custom-house, nor magazines, nor even a single cistern are to be found at Cosseir. When we arrived at this port, there was no other water in the town than what was brought from Asia, and this cost us a sous a goblet; but the activity of our soldiers made them find springs in twenty-four hours; and we got for nothing water better than that which was sold so dear, though it could not be kept or heated without acquiring an almost insupportable bitterness.

The coast all about Cosseir is frightfully poor and barren ; but the sea is rich in fish, shells, and corals : the latter are so numerous, that it may have been here that the whole sea acquired the name of *Red*, whilst the sand on the shore is so white. The reefs are only coral and madrepores, as well as all the rocks which lie in these seas, to within half a league of the actual shore.

Two days after our arrival, that we might not waste the provisions of those that we left behind, we set out on our return ; we were still preceded by our Arab friends, to whom the Desert seemed by right to belong. They neglected none of the products of their empire ; for we perceived two antelopes flying into the Desert, upon which four of our allies set out in pursuit of them, with indifferent matchlock guns ; some minutes after we heard only two shots fired, and we saw them return with both the antelopes, which were as fat as if they had been fed in the richest pasture. I was invited to partake of them ; and being curious to know how their cookery was carried on, I went to their quarter : the leader, who was as proud as a sovereign, had no other decoration than the belt we had given him ; his palace was wherever he spread his carpet ; his kitchen utensils consisted of two plates of copper, and a pot of the same metal : butter, flour, and two sticks of wood, completed his table equipage ; in a few minutes he had struck a light, collected old camels' dung-for fuel, made dough of his flour, and cooked some fritters, which were very good when hot ; and this, with the soup of the flesh, the bouillie, and broiled meat, made up a very tolerable repast for one who had any appetite, which, however, was not my case, for I had not the least in the Desert, and I lived almost entirely on lemonade, which I generally made when riding on my camel, by putting slices of lemon in my mouth, along with sugar, and washing it down with water. Our Arabs were acquainted with every

corner of pasturage ; they knew to what forwardness of growth such and such plants should have attained, at a league's distance from the regular track, and sent their camels to feed upon them : these poor animals had nothing else in the whole day but a single feed of beans, which they ruminate for the remainder of the day, either on their journey, or lying down on the scorching sand, without testifying the least impatience. The passion of desire alone gives them some violence in their actions, particularly the females, who appear more irritable ; and, what is extraordinary, fatigue seems to inflame their temperament, instead of exhausting them.

Our return was still more rapid than our journey out : we returned in two days and a half ; but for the last half day we were quite overcome with fatigue and drought, and I could only quench my thirst by eating largely of melons, and plunging in the Nile. After travelling for eight days in the Desert, the senses are awakened by the slightest impressions ; and I still remember the delight which I felt on again spending the night reclined on the banks of the Nile, hearing the wind rustling in the leaves of trees, and feeling the refreshing coolness that it acquires in brushing through the long leaves of the palm, which it gently agitates : every thing was alive, and gave animating sensations ; life was in the air, and nature seemed to respire. However, I became fully convinced by this journey, made in the hottest time of the year, and the hazard of which had been much exaggerated to us, that the undertaking it is what requires the effort of courage, and the danger flies from those who brave it.

On our return we were eager to enjoy the favours of the Nile, and we were going to plunge our parched bodies in its salutary wave, when we found its usual appearance was quite changed : during the latter days of the kamsin, the current of the Nile becomes sluggish, the waters lose their usual salubrity and

transparency, and become green, throwing up flakes of foul mud, which exhale a mephitic odour: in short, it is then no longer the bountiful river, the creator and preserver of Egypt; but it grows heavy in its motion, and would alarm the inhabitants of the banks, if its periodic restoration to its usual state was not as constant a phænomenon for them as it is surprising to the curious traveller. It keeps falling till the 17th of June, remains in stagnation for two days, and on the 19th it begins to rise.

At this period the residence in Upper Egypt is almost insupportable; the winds are variable, and are constantly changing from the east to the south, or the south-west: this latter is terrible, for it troubles the atmosphere, obscures the sun with a white, dry, and burning vapour, parches with thirst, dries up every thing, inflames the blood, irritates the nerves, and makes life itself painful: it also oppresses the lungs so severely, that one involuntarily seeks for cooler air to breathe in, feeling as if the mouth was an oven of fire; if one inhales the air by the nostrils, it affects the head, and in again exhaling it, it feels like a gush of blood rushing over the air-passages; every thing that one touches is burning, and iron even in the night acquires the same heat to the touch as it would in France in the dog-days, exposed to the noon-day beams of the sun.

During these latter days we made an expedition to Sahmateh and Abumanah, frontier places of the government of the Thebaid, to settle with the inhabitants for the necessary labours of dykes and canals. Our general was received like the governor of a province; the kaimakan, or general of the armed inhabitants, who was a rich man, had prepared for us on one of his estates a large court, well watered, which in some degree quelled the burning heat of the season. In the evening he gave a supper to ourselves, the sheiks of the province, the detachment which accompanied us, and for the numerous servants who had made them-

selves part of our suite; for in the East they are a kind of vermin which multiply at every step, and feed upon you, without your being able to defend yourself from their importunities. Scarcely have you engaged a single domestic than you are served by another, who never shows so much zeal as when he has no wages, and only takes pains when he is the servant's deputy; but as soon as you give him a livery he must have his horse, and this introduces a third officious fellow, and so on. These bloodsuckers, who insensibly increased in the army, were more burdensome to the country, and more barbarously destructive to the property of the inhabitants, than the army itself; they robbed with brutal audacity, proportioned to the rank or power of their masters, to whom they became insolent as soon as they could pass into the service of one more powerful, with whom they supposed they might continue their course with more impunity. They pursue their plundering schemes at the expense of the cultivator, the manufacturer, and all the useful and respectable classes of society: it is true that every battle freed us from a great number of them, but they returned for pillage, and only changed their masters. I have seen some, who in the beginning of the campaign had been grooms, on their return giving their orders to three servants, and, by means of promotions which they impudently made among each other, perform no other office than that of holding the stirrup for their master when he mounted, and even then having one of their understrappers at hand to hold their pipe, or rather to show to the by-standers the dignity to which they had arrived. It must be acknowledged, however, that by degrees we rendered ourselves accomplices of this corruption; for we caught the spirit of orientals in breathing the same air with them, and we became so accustomed to a suite, that we soon could not do without a large train of attendants.

On the next day there was an assembly of the

sheiks of the villages, for the purpose of discussing a method to reconcile the interest of the government with that of the cultivators, and of offering premiums to those who should distinguish themselves in the ensuing year (for in Egypt the year may be said to commence with the preparation of the canals to receive and distribute the waters of the inundation, every thing being then concluded relative to the past, and the operations for the future crop being about to begin). It is not in my power to give the particular deliberations of this council; but I was informed that no innovations were introduced without previously consulting the will of the inhabitants, to whom every possible encouragement was promised. When the session broke up, to the honour of these brave men be it spoken, they said, "This is like an assembly of the time of sheik prince Ammon, in which the consultation was not about arbitrary impositions, but the best means of promoting the public welfare." This prince Ammon was a powerful Arab chief, who during the troubles of Egypt had rendered himself the independent sovereign of all the Upper Thebais from Girgeh. The Mamelukes, whom he sheltered in their misfortunes, had no sooner thrown off the authority of the Porte than they looked upon him as a rebel and protector of the mal-contents, whom they therefore attacked, enfeebled, and at length destroyed.

The following day we were feasted with equal abundance by the villagers of Abumanah, though their manners were by no means so polished as those of our former hosts; for, notwithstanding they had themselves of their own accord furnished this plentiful repast, they waited impatiently till we had finished, in order to carry away what was left, and make a great scramble of it.

Citizen Gerard and eight members of the committee of arts being about to proceed up the Nile, to make a chart of its course, offered me an opportunity of renewing my travels, and in this journey I made

a drawing of the zodiac, which is on the ceiling of the portico at Tentyra; enriched my collection of these new proofs of the skill of the Egyptians in astronomy, with a number of drawings and hieroglyphical inscriptions, which, compared, examined, and discussed in the tranquillity of the closet, ought to reveal their mysteries, or convince us that they are not to be found out. I procured also many particulars relative to the state of the fine arts in particular, by the discovery of a canon of proportions traced upon a human figure with red chalk, and afterwards covered by a thin stucco, a method, no doubt, adopted by the Egyptians to give a finer finish to their bas-reliefs, and render their paintings indestructible.

I observed also among the bas-reliefs a little votive temple, with a pediment, which is never used in Egyptian architecture: a small figure holding a rabbit shows that in merely ornamental works the Egyptian artists could occasionally deviate from their usual severity; a statue modelled from this very figure would be a Greek fawn. I completed also my collection of animals, a kind of sculpture in which they excelled, and where the grandeur and simplicity of the lines often comes up to the ideal abstract of beauty. A constant subject of astonishment is afforded by the equality of care observable in all the parts of so vast a whole, by that minute exactness of execution, and that perfect finish, the fruits of an obstinacy and an inflexible perseverance which characterize the monastic spirit, whose zeal neither perishes nor even cools, and whose pride is not individual but corporate. Probably the artists themselves were a constituent part of the colleges of priests; for it is scarcely to be supposed that these would have allowed the arts, that elevate and adorn the human mind, to be intrusted to any cast but their own.

On the 26th of June the Nile began to rise, and on this and the two following days had attained the height of three inches; it then increased at the rate

of two inches a day, and afterwards at three inches; the water now filled the banks, ceased to be green, without, however, becoming muddy. It was proposed to make a tour, in order to examine the canals and the intended ameliorations, and to complete the plan of all those useful and benevolent operations which evince the public spirit and paternal care of a government. The heat had become insupportable; the west wind oppressed us, caused bleedings of the nose, and painful eruptions, which covered alternately all parts of the body, dried and hardened the skin, and impeded perspiration; the rays of the sun, the principal, perhaps the sole cause of these evils, raised on every pore a pustule similar to the small-pox, which became intolerable, when in lying down it was necessary to rest on these inflamed points.

The heat was extreme on the first of July, our blood was inflamed by the solstitial sun: two soldiers fainted while we were leaving Keneh, and on the next morning fifteen others were obliged to be left behind; and if we had not by this time been a little accustomed to the climate, not an individual would have been able to resist it: as it was, we were obliged to make shorter day's journeys, and to march only in the morning. The country, notwithstanding the heat, was quite alive; the whole population, under the direction of the sheiks, was busily employed in clearing out the canals, and opening them to admit the inundation. The restoration of public confidence and tranquillity had brought back the herds from the passes of the Desert, and the fields, abandoned four months ago, were now covered with animals feeding in peace.

We rested one day at Kous, and on the third arrived by sun-rise at Karnac. Among the new discoveries which I made while traversing the ruins of the temple, may be mentioned a figure that I perceived on the outer walls of the small buildings by the side of the sanctuary: the figure represents a

person making an offering of two obelisks. I saw also delineated the gate of a temple, with two folding doors, shut by exactly the same kind of wooden bolts that are at present made use of.

To the several descriptions that I have already given of this gigantic monument, I may add, that on the south side of the first court there is a particular edifice comprised within the general circumvallation, consisting of a boundary wall and a gate, opening into a court surrounded with a pilastered gallery, in front of which are figures with their arms crossed, and holding in one hand a scourge and in the other a kind of hook; there are besides two lateral galleries, five antichambers on the basement, with five chambers behind them, the whole terminated by another gallery abutting on the side courts of the large temple. This was, perhaps, the palace, or rather the splendid prison of the kings; and the idea is rendered probable by the sculptured figures on the side of the gate, representing heroes holding by the hair conquered prisoners, and presented by the divinities with new arms for future victories.

We proceeded on the morrow to Salamich, and arrived in good time the next day at Esneh. We went to pass the evening at Bassalier, a country house of Assan-Bey, situated on the high and steep bank of the Nile, without a single tree to refresh the eye, and directly opposite to the barren and scorching rocks of the chain of Mokatam. It is difficult to imagine what motive could induce a man to build a pleasure-house in such a situation: nor does the interior of the building offer any compensation for the inconveniencies without. Sorry walls and miserable gateways are all the architectural charms of this palace, into which it is impossible to enter without stooping, where every staircase is a precipice, and the view from the windows offers no living or moving objects but crocodiles, which are both large and numerous in this part of the river.

While following the course of a canal between Bassalier and El-Moëcat, our notice was drawn by a hillock of bricks, called Com-el-Achmart: at the southern extremity of this we discovered the foundation of an Egyptian temple, and a few courses of the basement of a portico, the whole covered with hieroglyphics. This unknown ruin had hitherto escaped geographers and travellers, both ancient and modern.

I was now, for the third time, at Etfu, and its temple appeared more magnificent than ever: if that at Tentyra is more learned in its details, this of Etfu has more grandeur as a whole.

I discovered a way through the ruins into one of the interior chambers, which appeared to be the second behind the portico, and immediately preceding the sanctuary; all that the heaps of ruins allowed me to see of the sculpture was highly finished in excellently good taste; the freestone of which the building was constructed being finer than any other that I had seen, all the work engraven upon it had retained its original boldness and delicacy, as if the material had been marble.

We set off again at night, and returned, without stopping, to Esneh, thoroughly fatigued: we were, however, glad to find that, notwithstanding the vertical position of the sun, the most insupportable heats had finished with the kamsin, and that although the north wind becomes heated in its passage up the valley of the Nile, before the inundation, while the fields and cultivated lands are bare, it is by no means so oppressive as the sudden squalls from the east, and the desolating whirlwinds from the west.

The Nile, after having risen for some time at the daily rate of two and three inches, came at length to an increase of a foot each day, when the water began to be muddy, which appears to show that the Nile, in its course, traverses some large lakes, whose limpid waters are forced down the stream by the torrents of rain from the Abyssinian mountains, and that the

discoloration of the Nile does not happen till the arrival of these last in Egypt.

On returning from Esneh, I went to visit the temple which is in the plain to the right of the road to Harmant; the moving sands, or a defect in the foundation, have caused partial sinkings, by which several of the columns are thrown out of the perpendicular, and the ceiling of the portico is much damaged. I made a plan, however, of the building, in order to gain a clear idea of the distribution of its parts, and of some peculiarities, such as the double walls that form the sides of the porticoes, within which is left an empty space, whose utility is not very obvious.

The parts behind the portico are trivial and negligent as to their decorations. The sanctuary is totally destroyed; but, from what remains of the outer wall, there seems to have been an exterior gallery quite round the temple. Some of the rubbish has lately been removed by Assan-Bey, and this has discovered some underground buildings, which show that the temple formerly extended beyond the portico: the remains of this last consist of eight columns, with broad capitals, differing from each other in the ornaments that they bear; in one it is the vine, in another the ivy, and in a third the palm-leaf. Some enormous and very well made bricks announce that the edifices which surrounded the temple had been carefully constructed.

We may suppose that there were monasteries, sanctuaries, and detached chapels near the Egyptian towns, as there are in the catholic countries of Europe, madonnas, saints, and miraculous grottoes, where religious zeal was enlivened by silence and mystery. The small temple near Chnubis, and another on the right bank of the river, opposite Esneh, are other examples of the existence of these kinds of religious edifices: the hieroglyphics which cover the outer walls, and the inside of the portico of this unknown ruin, are in an ordinary style, and of indifferent

execution; a few astronomical figures are observable on the ceiling of the portico, coarsely executed, but which serve to show that the exterior of these temples was devoted to astronomy, to the history of the heavens and the seasons, and of those epochs formed by the revolution of the stars.

We were told, that to the west of Esneh was a Coptic monastery, containing many wonderful things: we hastened thither: a soil moistened with the blood of numerous martyrs is become a sanctuary revered by all the Egyptian catholics, whose indefatigable zeal is daily repairing, at great expense, the devastations caused by the Mamelukes whenever they intend to punish the Christians for delaying the payment of the requisitions.

We saw with much satisfaction, that the hope of enjoying the fruit of his labours had in many cases induced the cultivator to anticipate the orders with which we were charged; the fields were covered with labourers, busily employed in clearing out the canals, already more than half dug; and the peasants no longer quitted their occupations, except to bring water and melons to our soldiers. Another agreeable circumstance for the country and ourselves, was, that the villages had agreed of their own accord, that the *price of blood*, the cause of so many domestic feuds, should be abolished, and the punishment of all new offences be intrusted to our equity. The price of blood is one of those scourges originating from barbarism and prejudice, which raise barriers between each country, and intercept the free communication; if a private quarrel or accident has caused the death of any one, in default of justice, vengeance, or honour, ill understood, accumulate reprisals on reprisals, whence springs an eternal war. Oblivion of past errors was then the first happy effect of the justice of our government. Another important advantage to those inhabitants who were in easy circumstances, was the liberty of displaying their wealth with impu-

nity, of visiting us daily in their best apparel, and feasting at each other's houses without the risk of arbitrary exactions, or an increase of taxes. We were even ourselves invited, and magnificently entertained, by well dressed people whom we had never seen before, who conversed with us freely and with much intelligence, concerning our mutual interests, who informed us of our errors, made us acquainted with their own wants, and always spoke of Desaix in terms of the highest respect and confidence. With these favourable omens, I looked forward to the time when domestic happiness and public tranquillity should double a population already adequate to the culture of the soil; and when, the arts and manufactures being unable to occupy all the additional hands, the government should, perhaps, as formerly be obliged to find occupation for its superfluous subjects in the erection of pyramids.

Profiting of the security which had at length been established, I galloped before the party, to take some sketches of the ruined temples of Medinet-Abu, where I had settled to rejoin the troop. I arrived here an hour before the rest, and employed myself in taking a view of the temple which adjoins the village: to the right is a square monument that probably was a palace contiguous to the temple, very small indeed, but of which the neighbouring porticoes might serve as prolongations, in a climate where open galleries and terraces answer the purpose of apartments. I made a design of the small palace, the character of which is entirely different from that of the other edifices, both in its plan, and a sort of balconies supported by four heads in the attitudes of caryatides. It is a pity that this particular remain should be so degraded, especially on the inside, and that the relics of its exterior decorations should be so greatly injured: these sculptures, as well as those in that part of the temple of Karnac, which I suspect to have been a

palace, represent the figures of kings menacing groups of prostrate captives.

Keeping still before the troop, I hastened to the two colossal statues, and took a view of them with the effect of the sun-rise, at the same hour as strangers used to resort hither to hear the musical sounds from the colossus of Memnon. I then proceeded to the solitary place called the Memnonium. We passed through the village of Kurnu, the ancient Necropolis, and in approaching these subterranean habitations, we were for the third time saluted by the incorrigible inhabitants with a volley of musketry. This was the only place in Upper Egypt which held out against our government. Strong in their sepulchral retreats, they came out like spectres, only to alarm men: culpable by their many other crimes, they concealed their remorse, and fortified their disobedience in the obscurity of these excavations, which are so numerous, as of themselves to attest the immense population of ancient Thebes. It was across these humbler tombs that the kings were carried two leagues from the palace, into the silent valley that was to become for the future their peaceful and lasting abode: this valley to the north-west of Thebes becomes insensibly narrower, and flanked as it is with perpendicular rocks, whole ages have been able to produce only very slight alterations of its ancient form. Towards the extremity, the opening between the rocks even now offers scarcely space enough to pass by the tombs, so that the sumptuous processions which no doubt accompanied the ceremony of royal interment, must have produced a striking contrast with the frowning asperity of these wild rocks: if, however, they went by this road, it was probably only for the purpose of obtaining a longer space, in which to roll the full tide of funeral pomp; for, the valley even from its commencement tending towards the south, the spot where the tombs are cannot be a great distance from the

Memnonium. It was not till after marching three quarters of an hour in this desert valley, that in the midst of the rocks we observed, all at once, some openings parallel to the ground: these openings at first displayed no other architectural ornaments than a door in a simple square frame, with a flattened oval in the centre of the upper part, on which are inscribed in hieroglyphics a beetle, the figure of a man with a hawk's head, and beyond the circle, two figures on their knees in the act of adoration. As soon as the threshold of the first gate is passed, we discover long galleries twelve feet wide and twenty in height, cased with stucco sculptured and painted; the arches, of an elegant elliptical figure, are covered with innumerable hieroglyphics, disposed with so much taste, that, notwithstanding the singular grotesqueness of the forms, and the total absence of demi-tint, or aërial perspective, the ceilings make an agreeable whole, and a rich and harmonious association of colours. It would have required a stay of some weeks, in order to discover or form any system concerning the subjects of so many and such mysterious paintings, and unfortunately I was only allowed a few minutes; even these were not granted to me with the best possible grace. I asked questions on all sides with impatience; preceded by torches, I had merely time to pass on from one tomb to another: at the end of the galleries were the sarcophagi unconnected with each other, composed of a single block of granite, twelve feet long by eight in breadth, ornamented with hieroglyphics both within and without; at one end they were rounded, and at the other squared, like that in the mosque of St. Athanasius at Alexandria: the tombs were covered by a lid of the same material, and of an enormous mass, shutting with a groove; but neither this precaution, nor these vast blocks of stone, brought from such a distance and at so great an expense, have been able to preserve the relics of the sovereigns from the attempts of avarice; all the tombs are violated:

on the lid of the first sarcophagus that we met with, the figure of the king, or of some protecting divinity, is sculptured; but the figure itself is so worn, that it is impossible to distinguish by the dress whether it is a king, a priest, or a divinity. In other tombs the sepulchral chamber is surrounded by a pilastered portico, whose galleries, bordered with recesses supported in the same manner, and lateral chambers hollowed into the rock, are covered with a white and fine stucco, on which are coloured hieroglyphics in a most wonderful state of preservation; for, except two of the eight tombs that I visited, which have been injured by water trickling down them, all the rest are still in full perfection, and the paintings as fresh as when they were first executed: the colours of the ceilings, exhibiting yellow figures on a blue ground, are executed with a taste that might decorate our most splendid saloons.

The trumpet had already sounded to horse, when I discovered some little chambers, on the walls of which were represented all kinds of arms, such as panoplies, coats of mail, tigers' skins, bows, arrows, quivers, pikes, javelins, sabres, casques, and whips: in another was a collection of household utensils, such as caskets, chests of drawers, chairs, sofas, and beds, all of exquisite forms, and such as might well grace the apartments of modern luxury: as these were probably accurate representations of the objects themselves, it is almost a proof that the ancient Egyptians employed for their furniture Indian woods, carved and gilt, which they covered with embroidery; besides these were represented various smaller articles, as vases, coffee-pots, ewers with their basons, a teapot and basket. Another chamber was consecrated to agriculture, in which were represented all its various instruments, a sledge similar to those in use at present, a man sowing grain by the side of a canal, from the borders of which the inundation is beginning to retire, a field of corn reaped with a sickle, fields of

rice with men watching them. In a fourth chamber was a figure clothed in white, playing on a harp with eleven chords. I observed many figures without heads; I even found some with the head cut off: these all represented black men, and those who had cut the heads off, and were still holding the sword, the instrument of punishment, were coloured red. Could these be human sacrifices? Was it the custom to immolate slaves on the tombs? or was it the representation of an act of justice, and the punishment of the guilty? I found a beautiful little patera of baked earth, a fragment worthy of the finest period of the arts, in the most civilized nations. I also found some figures of divinities cut in sycamore-wood with uncommon elegance, and a small foot of a mummy, which does no less honour to nature than the other fragments do to art. It was no doubt the foot of a young woman, a princess, a lovely creature, the perfect form of which had never been cramped by the absurdity of fashion. At length with much regret I quitted these tombs, where I had remained three hours, and could easily have found subjects to occupy me for as many days. The mystery and magnificence observable within these excavations, the number of doors by which they are protected, convince me that the religious worship which had scooped out and decorated these grottoes, was the same as that which had raised the pyramids.

Having arrived at Keneh, we learnt that Murad-Bey had quitted the oasis, that he had descended by the road of Siut, to the environs of Miniet, had kept up a correspondence with Lower Egypt, as far as the north of Africa, and had received an emissary thence who had landed at Deme. This emissary was no other than the angel El-Mahdi, announced and promised in the Koran, and was recognized by an adgi, who was at the head of two hundred Mongrabins. Immediately the standard of the prophet was unfurled, and prodigies were announced; it was

given out that the guns, and even the canon of the French, could not hurt those who followed this sacred banner; a crowd of Arabs joined this first assemblage, who suddenly appeared in the province of Bahira, and got possession of Demenhur, which was garrisoned only by sixty French. At this first success, the partisans of this new expedition increased, the Bedouins flocked to it from every side, and the crowd became innumerable; like the whirlwinds that traverse the Desert, raising in their march pillars of sand and dust, that seem to threaten heaven and earth, but as soon as their base is struck by an object they stop, waver, and presently are lost in the space of the Desert. So it was with our enemies, a detachment was sent against them, Demenhur was retaken; fifteen hundred of the revolters were killed, and the rest dispersed; the angel El-Mahdi himself was wounded, and escaped with difficulty, the illusion ceased, and both the phantom and the army disappeared.

Being enabled to make still another visit to Thebes, I began my researches, accompanied by some volunteers. I examined grottoes which we had taken by assault: they were constructed without magnificence, consisting of a regular double gallery supported by pillars, behind which was a row of chambers, often double, and tolerably regular.

In proportion as the height of these grottoes increases they become more richly decorated; and I was soon convinced by the magnificence both of the paintings and sculptures, and of the subjects which they represented, that I was among the tombs of great men or heroes. Those which are believed to belong to the ancient kings are only distinguished from the others by the magnificence of the sarcophagi, and the mysterious solitude of their situation: the others immediately overlook the great buildings in the town. The sculpture in all is incomparably more laboured and higher finished than any that I had seen in the temples; it was like the work of the

chisel itself, and I stood in astonishment at the high perfection of the art, and of its singular destiny, to be fixed in places devoted to silence and obscurity. In the working of these galleries beds of a very fine grained calcareous clay have occasionally been crossed; and here the lines of the hieroglyphics have been cut with a firmness of touch, and a precision, of which marble offers but few examples; the figures have an elegance and correctness of contour, of which I never thought Egyptian sculpture susceptible. Here too I could judge of the style of this people, in subjects which were neither hieroglyphic, nor historical, nor scientific, for these were representations of small scenes taken from nature, in which the stiff profile outlines, so common with the Egyptian artists, were exchanged for supple and natural attitudes; groups of persons were given in perspective, and cut in deeper relief than I should have supposed any thing but metal could have been worked. I could not help being struck by the little analogy which the greater number of these subjects have with the spot wherein they are immured; it requires the presence of mummies to persuade one's self that these excavations are tombs: I have found here bas-reliefs representing games, such as rope-dancing; and asses taught to play tricks and to rear on their hind-legs, which are sculptured with all the nature and simplicity that Bassan has shown in representing the same animals on the canvass.

The plan of these excavations is not less singular; there are some which are so vast and complicated, that one would take them for labyrinths, or subterranean temples. We penetrated these subterranean labyrinths, which indeed resembled, by their mysterious passages and windings, the temples constructed for the trials of the initiated. After passing the apartments, adorned in the elegant style that I have just described, we entered long and gloomy galleries, which wind backwards and forwards in numerous

angles, and seem to occupy a great extent of ground; they are melancholy, repulsive, and without any decoration; but from time to time open into other chambers covered with hieroglyphics, and branch out into narrow paths that lead to deep perpendicular pits, which we descended by resting our arms against the sides, and fixing our feet into steps that are cut in the rock. At the bottom of these pits we found other adorned chambers; and lower still, a new series of perpendicular pits and horizontal chambers; and at last, ascending a long flight of steps, we arrived at an open place which we found to be on a level with the chambers that we first entered.

If the magnificence displayed in the houses of the living was at all equal to that of these ultimate habitations, as we have some reason to suppose, from the sumptuous pieces of furniture painted in the tombs of the kings, how much must we regret that no vestige of them remains! What can have become of palaces that contained such opulence? How can they have disappeared? They cannot be buried under the mud of the Nile, since the quay which is before Luxor shows, that the elevation the soil has undergone is very inconsiderable. Were they built of unbaked and therefore perishable earth? or did the great men, as well as the priests, inhabit the temples, and the people only huts?

During the whole expedition, we had been followed by a flight of kites and small vultures, which had become as familiar as they were naturally voracious. They fed on what we left behind us, and always rejoined us whenever we halted. In the days of battle, instead of being alarmed by the noise of cannon, they flocked about us from all sides; this time, however, our boat expedition had deceived our feathered acquaintance; but at the first noise of firing, and especially on the explosion of our mine, they made it a signal for collecting around us. We were much entertained with their address and familiarity; some-

times we threw down from the steep banks of the river a piece of meat, which they always caught before it touched the water, and now and then they would carry off the rations which the servants were bearing on their heads to the advanced posts. I have seen the kites, whilst our soldiers were cleaning fowls for the table, gently twitch from their hands the entrails and parts which were rejected; the vultures, however, had not the same dexterity, but their impudence equalled their voracity; they fed on the vilest and most corrupted offal that fell in their way.

The next day I was conducted to new tombs and galleries. The figures of the gods are here carried by priests upon litters, with banners waving over their heads, and followed by personages bearing golden vases of several forms, calumets, arms, loaves of bread, victuals of different kinds, and coffers of various construction.

I could not distinguish in this procession which was the corpse, perhaps it was enclosed in some sarcophagus, and surmounted by the figures of the gods; the women marched in order, playing on musical instruments; one group of this kind was formed of three singers accompanying each other, one with the harp, another with a kind of guitar, and the third with some wind instrument.

Beyond these subterranean caves is a monument built of unbaked bricks, the lines of which have something elegant in them. The slope of the walls and the capitals resemble the Egyptian style; but some of the outer ornaments, and the arches in the sur-base, convince me that this is an Arab monument: it is considerable in size, and, by its situation, it commands the whole territory of Thebes.

Several fragments of mummies were brought me: I promised an unlimited reward to any who should procure me one whole and untouched; but the cupidity of the Arabs deprived me of this satisfaction; for they sell at Cairo the resin which they find in the

belly and skull of these mummies, and there is no preventing them from committing this violence to them: besides, the fear of selling one that might contain some treasures (though they have never found any in these antiquities) makes them always break the outer wooden covering, and tear that of painted cloth, which wraps round the whole body, wherever much pains have been taken in the embalming.

The third day I went to Medinet-Abu, and revisited this vast edifice with new admiration. Being no longer harassed by the hasty march of an army, I could examine at leisure this immense group of buildings. I had already remarked, that in the second portico catholicism had there fabricated a church, of which no other remains were left than a sur-base of the recess of the choir, and the columns of the nave; but I discovered from the testimony of a number of little doors, decorated with flowered crosses, that the body of the edifice, which was two hundred feet long, had to all appearance served as a convent for some orders of monks of the earlier ages of christianity. In the portico, where the church had been situated, I had time to observe, that the sculptures on the inner wall represented the exploits and the triumph of some hero, perhaps Sesostris, who had carried his arms into foreign countries, and had obtained victories in India, as all these bas-reliefs seem to point out. Here I remarked the figure of a hero alone pursuing a whole army, who are flying from before him, and, to escape from his blows, throwing themselves into some river, perhaps the Indus. This hero, who is mounted on a small chariot, in which there is only room for himself, drives two horses, holding the reins on a level with his girdle: bucklers and heaps of arms are hung all about him, and around his car; his stature is gigantic, and he holds an immense bow, from which he is shooting arrows upon a bearded and long-haired enemy, who had not the least resemblance with the known forms of Egyptian heads. Further on, he is

represented sitting on the back of his car, the horses of which are held by pages, and one person is counting out before him the hands cut off from the enemy killed in battle, whilst another is inscribing the number, and a third appears to be proclaiming the sum. Some travellers have seen a second heap of mutilations of another kind, which show that the hero has not been fighting against Amazons; but the figure of these mutilations did not strike me. Prisoners are also brought to him, confined in different ways; they are all clothed with flowing and striped robes, their hair is long and matted, and tables of hieroglyphics follow, fifty feet in diameter, which doubtless explain the meaning of the figures that precede them. Returning to the left by another side of these galleries, a long bas-relief is seen, that represents, in two lines, a triumphal march: it is probably the same hero returning from his conquests; some soldiers covered with armour prove that the triumph is military, though a little further on nothing is to be seen but priests, or persons of the class of the initiated, without arms, and with long and transparent tunics: the arms of the hero are covered with these garments; he is borne on the shoulders of men in a palanquin, with all the attendants of a divinity; before and behind him march priests, bearing palm-branches and calumets, and incense is presented to him. He arrives in this state at the temple of the tutelar deity of Thebes, whom I have already described, and offers to the god a sacrifice, in which he officiates as priest; the march continues, and the god is borne by twenty-four priests; the bull Apis, with the attributes of divinity, marches before the hero, and a long train of personages follow, holding each a banner, on the greater number of which are the representations of different deities. When arrived at the altar, a child appears with his hands tied behind his back, about to be immolated before the conqueror, who has stopped to receive this horrible sacrifice, or to assist at this execrable holo-

caust; beside them stands a priest, who is breaking the stem of a flower, and birds which are flying away, emblems of the separation of the soul from the body. The account which Longus and Apuleius, in their romances of 'Theagenes and the Golden Ass, have transmitted to us of human sacrifices among the Egyptians, is therefore not a fable, and these polished people still retained some resemblance to barbarians. Next the hero himself makes a sacrifice to the god Apis, of a sheaf of wheat; a protecting genius accompanies him throughout; he changes his dress in the different parts of the ceremony, which perhaps marks his various dignities or degrees of initiation; but the same physiognomy is constantly preserved, which shows that it is a portrait; his air is noble, august, and mild. In one picture he is holding nine persons, confined by the same chain. Are these the passions personified? or do they represent nine conquered nations? Incense is offered to him in honour of these victories: a priest writes his annals, and consigns them to sacred memorial.

It is therefore proved, that the ancient Egyptians had written books; the famous *Totb* was then a book, and not inscribed tablets sculptured on the walls, as has been often supposed. I could not help flattering myself, that I was the first to make so important a discovery; but I was much more delighted, when, some hours after, I was assured of the proof of my discovery by the possession of a manuscript itself, which I found in the hand of a fine mummy, that was brought me: the reader should be a traveller, an inquirer, and an amateur, to sympathize with my rapture on this occasion. When it was brought me, I felt that I turned pale with anxiety; I was going to express my indignation at those who had violated the integrity of this mummy, when I perceived in its right hand, and resting on the left arm, a roll of papyrus, in which was a manuscript, that I should perhaps have never seen without this violation. I

then blessed the avarice of the Arabs, and my good fortune, which had put me in possession of such a treasure, which I hardly dared to touch for fear of injuring the sacred manuscript, the oldest of all the books in the known world. I could not venture to intrust it out of my sight, and all the cotton of my bed was devoted to wrapping it up with the utmost care.

I found another opportunity next day of revisiting Medinet Abu. I took candles with me, which gave me an opportunity of penetrating through the darkest places, and those which I could not see in my former visits to this spot. I here found three small chambers covered with bas-reliefs, which had always been dark; at the bottom of the third was a kind of stone buffet, the hinges of which were still remaining, and this was all that was particular in this small adorned apartment, which was the innermost of three, and closed by three doors as strong as walls.

In my research I entered a hole that had been dug under the foundations of the part of a temple which appeared to me the most ancient of all; and yet even here, at the base of one of the principal piers of the edifice, I discovered foundation stones, on which were sculptured numerous hieroglyphics, as finely executed as those that decorated the outer part of the building.

At the north of these temples we found the ruins of two figures of granite prostrate and broken. They might have been about thirty-six feet in height; their attitude was the usual one, of the right foot advanced, and the arms hanging down beside the body; and they doubtless adorned the gate of some large edifices, the ruins of which are now buried under the soil. I then went to the two colossi, supposed to be those of Memnon, and took an accurate drawing of their actual state of preservation. These two pieces of art, which are without grace, expression, or action, have nothing which seduces the judgment; but their pro-

portions are faultless ; and this simplicity of attitude, and want of decided expression, has something of majesty and seriousness, which cannot fail to strike the beholder. If the limbs of these figures had been distorted in order to express some violent passion, the harmony of their outline would have been lost, and they would be less conspicuous at the distance at which they begin to strike the eye, and produce their effect on the mind of the spectator, for they may be distinguished as far as four leagues off. To pronounce upon the character of these statues, it is necessary to have seen them at several intervals, and to have long reflected on them ; and after this it often happens, that what is at first considered as the work of the infancy of art, becomes assigned to its maturer age. If the group of the Laocoon, which speaks to the soul as well as to the eyes, were executed in a proportion of sixty feet, it would lose all its beauty, and would not present so striking a mass of workmanship as this ; in short, if these statues were more agreeable, they would be less beautiful, as they would then cease to be (what they now are) eminently *monumental*, a character which should belong peculiarly to that out-door sculpture which is intended to harmonize with architecture, a style of sculpture which the Egyptians have carried to the highest pitch of perfection.

I again examined the block of granite, which lies between these two statues, and I am still more convinced that it is the ruins of the famous colossal statue of Osymandyas, who, on the inscription, braved both the ravages of time and the pride of men ; and that the two figures which are left standing, are those of his wife and daughter.

Having returned to the tombs, after many painful and fruitless researches, we at last arrived at a hole before which were scattered numerous fragments of mummies: the opening was narrow, we looked at each other, to learn if there was any risk in going down ; my companions were curious, and we deter-

mined that one of the volunteers, with my servant, should stay without to secure our guides, and prevent them either from going away or advancing to us. We then struck a light and entered the narrow passage; we were at first obliged to grope on our hands and knees, and in a minute's time one of our people cried out that he was nearly stifled; we sent him to the door to replace the sentinel, and to send the latter to us taking his light: having crawled along nearly a hundred paces over a heap of dead and half-decayed bodies, the vault became loftier, more spacious, and decorated with a considerable degree of care. We now found that this tomb had already been searched, that those who had first entered it, not having torches, had used bushes to give them light, and that these had set fire first to the linen and afterwards to the resin of the mummies, which had caused such a combustion as to split some of the stones, melt the gums and resins, and blacken all the sides of the cave. We could observe, however, that this vault had been intended for the burial-place of two considerable persons, whose figures were sculptured in embossment, seven feet in height, holding each other by the hand. Above their heads was a bas-relief, representing two dogs in a leash lying on the altar; and kneeling, two figures had the appearance of worshipping, which makes it probable that two friends were buried here, who were unwilling to part even in death. Besides this, there were lateral chambers unornamented, and fitted with corpses that had been embalmed with more or less care; showing that though the tombs had been constructed and decorated by persons of consequence, they received not only the corpses of the founders, but of their children, friends, relations, and perhaps all the servants of their house. Several bodies swathed up but without any coffin, were lying on the ground, and there were as many of these as could be laid in a regular order. I here found the reason why so many small figures of

baked earth, holding in one hand a whip, and in the other a bent staff, were constantly found near these tombs; for the religious enthusiasm of the Egyptians went so far as to lay these rows of corpses upon beds formed entirely of these little images, a handful of which I put in my pocket. From a number of bodies which were not swathed up, I could perceive that circumcision was a constant custom among them, that depilation was not practised among the women, that their hair was long and flexible, and the character of the head was in a fine style. I brought away with me the head of an old woman, which was as striking as that of the sybils of Michael Angelo, and indeed a good deal resembled them. We then descended with some inconvenience into several deep pits, where we found more mummies, and large long pots of baked earth, with covers representing human heads; they contained nothing but some kind of resin.

During my stay at Luxor I met with some fine medals of Augustus, Adrian, and Trajan, with a crocodile on the reverse struck in Egypt in fine bronze with Greek inscriptions, and a great number of medals of Constantine. I also found in the court of a private house a granite torso, of larger proportion than natural, representing the two signs of Leo and Virgo; I bought it, and embarked it on board our boats.

As I was preparing to go on to Karnac, our detachment received orders to repair to several villages, where I found no particular object to interest me, and I now quitted for ever the great Diospolis.

I returned with a few sick soldiers to Keneh, and on my arrival there found two barks ready to sail for Cuïro, and only waiting for my coming on board.

On the fifth of July we set sail down the river. I saw Dendera and the Thebais gradually lessening to the view: that sanctuary which I had so often despised of being able to penetrate, and which I had had the satisfaction of traversing so many times in every direction, so that at length it became that par-

ticular country of the world with which I was most minutely acquainted ; the trees, the rocky eminences, the canals, the smallest monuments, every thing had become so deeply imprinted in my memory, that I was able to recognise and name each object within sight, and their several distances from each other.

We found the Nile more fully peopled than ever with all sorts of water-fowl : the pelicans had inhabited it for a month past ; storks, Numidian cranes, several species of wild ducks, curlews, and herons, enlivened all the islands that the river had not yet covered, and we saw large crocodiles even below Girgeh : in thirty-eight hours we had reached this town, which was already quite habituated to our government. In two hours we reached Minchieh, the ancient Ptolemais. The only remains of this large Greek city is a quay, of which I have already spoken, in but an indifferent state of preservation, though of a better construction than the Egyptian works of this kind : on the ruins is built a large village, inhabited chiefly by Christians.

Three miles lower down, on the right bank of the river, are the remains of Chemmis or Panopolis, now called Achmin : there still is to be seen, as I am informed, a building buried up to the very roof, which no doubt is the temple formerly dedicated to Pan, and consecrated to prostitution ; a number of almehs and women of the town still subsist here, as at Metubis, if not under the special protection, yet at least acknowledged and tolerated by the government : I was told that on a particular day in every week they assembled in a mosque near the tomb of the sheik Harridi, where, mingling sacred with profane, they commit all kinds of indecencies.

Achmin is large, and well situated on a tongue of land projecting into the Nile, and shouldered up by the chain of the Mokatam mountains, which, bending round in this place, forms a deep and difficult pass.

Beyond Malui are seen, on the right bank, near the

village of Sheik-Abade, the ruins of Antinœ, built by Hadrian in honour of his favourite Antinous, who sacrificed his own life in Egypt to save that of his sovereign. It is unfortunate that such sublime heroism should be found in alliance with infamous morals, so as to authorise a great man, under the sacred title of gratitude, to publish his regrets, which have been long ago consigned by nature to mystery and shame.

By the side of the river appears one of the city gates, resembling a triumphal arch. It is decorated with eight Corinthian pillars, between which are three arches springing from a buttress, ornamented with pilasters: this group of ruins is the most considerable of all that now remains of Antinœ. From this point there seems to have been a street passing in a straight line across the town to the opposite gate: both sides of this street appear to have been adorned with a colonnade of Doric pillars, under which one might walk in the shade. There are still visible some of the shafts, and a few capitals, very much worn, on account of the friable nature of the limestone used in their construction. The houses were built of brick. The circuit of Antinœ was very great, if the ruins of Besa, by being mixed with its own, have not increased its extent. Being desirous of obtaining a view of the whole of these ruins, we ascended a little hill, and soon perceived the inhabitants of the modern village assembling behind an opposite eminence: scarcely had we come over against them, than, supposing our intentions to be hostile, they called out for resistance, and threw dust into the air in token of defiance. We were only six in all, and I was unfortunately unarmed; we were obliged to make a movement, in order to prevent them from cutting off our retreat; this movement appeared to them another act of hostility; the alarm spread, and they began firing upon us. As our business was not to make war upon them, I took a hasty survey of the ruins before us, without seeing any

parts that would group so as to furnish a picturesque drawing. I only regretted the want of an opportunity to trace out the plan of a city, built in the mature age of architecture, by the orders, and under the immediate inspection of a prince, the munificent patron of the fine arts, and the most powerful monarch in the world: it must, however, be confessed, after having seen Latopolis, Apollinopolis, and Tentyra, and the other glories of Egyptian architecture, that the ruins of Antinöe appear mean and paltry.

At daybreak we found ourselves before the monastery of the Chain, situated on a peak of the Mokattam mountains: the monks who inhabit it swim into the stream to request alms of the boats that pass by; they are also said to practise piracy, when it can be done to profit, and without danger: from long habit they seem to have acquired all the agility in the water of amphibious animals, advancing against the full force of the stream like fishes. Besides being exposed alternately to the inclemency of three elements, they are in a manner destitute of the fourth; an immense desert cuts them off from all cultivation, and the blast that has swept across it, loaden with disease, howls around their desolate retreat: they are burnt up by the rays of a vertical sun, unremittingly darted on their dry and barren rocks; and it is with difficulty, and by swimming, that they can obtain a few occasional alms. It is called the *Monastery of the Chain*, because they can only procure supplies of water and other necessities, by means of a long chain attached to a windlass that they let down to the river. It appeared by the different groups of buildings, and of monks that we saw on the rock, that the monastery is of considerable extent, and well peopled. Its inhabitants have a perfect resemblance to the solitaries whom they have succeeded, and the interior of the edifice is probably not materially different from the convents of St. Antony, of Mount Kolzim, and the Natron Lakes. Half a league lower down, the

mountains retire from the river, the banks are flat and well cultivated, and the appearance of clouds announces our approach to the sea, and to a more temperate climate.

I again passed by the pyramids of Saccara, before that immense number of monuments which decorated the field of death, the necropolis of Memphis, and bounded that city on the south, as the pyramids of Gizeh did on the north. We might still be seeking in vain the site of that superb city, which succeeded in metropolitan dignity to Thebes, and even eclipsed its grandeur, if these sumptuous tombs did not attest its existence, and ascertain indubitably the extent of ground that it occupied. All the discussions published on this subject, and which render its situation uncertain, have been written by learned men who never visited Egypt, and were therefore incapable of judging how scrupulously exact are the descriptions of it given by Herodotus and Strabo. If this discussion is not yet entirely put an end to, it is that from the time of our arrival in Egypt, however near these pyramids are to Cairo, it has been always difficult to pass any length of time there, on account of the Arabs, who have continued to retain possession of the vicinity, as their imprescriptible property.

At length I reached Cairo; and Bonaparte having returned from his splendid expedition to Syria, he examined attentively all the drawings that I had brought back; and, satisfied that the object of my mission had been accomplished, invited me to go to Alexandria, and carry thither the trophies of Aboukir.

It was only a few days since I had quitted Thebes, and I seemed already within sight of Paris; my departure, which I had contemplated only obscurely, and at a distance, was fixed for the morrow; what at first I thought a dream, proved to be a reality, and I found myself borne rapidly along in the very track of my most anxious wishes: still however a feeling

which I know not how to describe, made me regret my departure from Cairo, a town which I had inhabited only by short intervals, and which I had never quitted without pain.

On my arrival at Alexandria, the first things that struck my attention were two of our frigates ready for sea, lying at single anchor off the new port; not a single English cruiser was in sight, and I began to believe in prodigies. Generals Lasnes, Murat, and Marmont, were agitated with anxiety; we listened without saying a word; were unable to occupy our attention with any thing; were constantly crowding to the same window; scrutinizing the sea, and watching with suspicion the movements of the smallest boat: at length, at one in the morning, General Menou came to inform us that Bonaparte was waiting for us on the beach. We immediately set sail, and after a voyage of no small danger from the enemy's cruisers, made the coast of Provence, and arrived safe at the port of Frejus.

Nothing could be more unexpected than our arrival in France, and the news of it spread with the rapidity of lightning. Scarcely had we displayed the flag of commander in chief, when the shore was covered with people, who exclaimed, Bonaparte! in accents of most intense desire: the public enthusiasm became uncontrollable, all apprehensions of contagion were forgotten, and our two vessels were surrounded by boats filled with men, whose only fear was lest they should be deceived in their hopes of the arrival of Bonaparte. Sublime emotion! France herself poured forth her thousands before him, who was destined to restore her splendour, and already from her frontiers demanded of him the revenge of Marengo. Our hero was borne in triumph to Frejus, and in an hour after set out for Paris.

Delighted to become again my own master, I stole from the multitude, and for the first time since my leaving France for Egypt, enjoyed the sweet satisfac-

tion of being no longer crowded nor hurried. Formerly I should have thought myself a traveller and stranger at Frejus ; but coming from Africa, I now seemed at home again, and one of the citizens of this little town, with nothing more to do. I arose late, I breakfasted at my full ease, I went to take a walk, visited the amphitheatre and the other ruins, looking with complacence at the frigates which had brought us, now lying at moorings in the harbour.

For my own part, I shall esteem myself happy, if, by my zeal and enthusiasm, I have succeeded in giving my readers an idea of a country so important as Egypt. If I have been able to pourtray with accuracy, its characteristic forms, colour, and general appearance, I shall be indebted for it to the advantage of describing and delineating every thing immediately from nature.

TRAVELS
IN THE
INTERIOR DISTRICTS OF AFRICA,

BY
Mr. MUNGO PARK, Surgeon.

PERFORMED IN
The Years 1795, 1796, and 1797.

EVER anxious for the satisfaction of our readers, we have hitherto exerted ourselves to procure, from the invaluable stores of literature, such pieces as, while they established the celebrity of their authors, clearly promised to crown our humble labours with success.

Impressed with this belief, we cheerfully renew our task, and present the public with an Abridgment of those Travels, through the Interior of Africa, for which we stand indebted to the efforts of Mr. Park, and in the perusal of which, we sincerely hope, instruction will appear to advantage beneath the light robes of amusement.

The necessity of some fresh discoveries on the African continent induced a respectable committee, assembled for that laudable purpose, to inquire for a person whose disposition and abilities should qualify him to prosecute their intended plan, and thereby render the geography of that country more familiar to the sons of Britain.

This desire had been for some time made public, when Mr. Park, on his arrival from the Indies, was made acquainted with its particulars, and instantly

conceived an eager wish to render so important a service to the society and the nation at large.

Innumerable perils might certainly have presented themselves to the contemplation of a weaker mind; but the nature of the undertaking, apparently so interesting, dispersed such gloomy visions from the soul of our traveller, whose bosom glowed with the fond anticipation of that precious experience which he might eventually gain, and which might probably increase the wealth or extend the benefits of a commercial kingdom.

Eager to explore a part so imperfectly described, and thirsting for a view of its inhabitants, laws, and customs, Mr. Park immediately solicited the honourable employment, which, after a requisite examination, crowned with the most flattering applause, he obtained from the urbanity of the African Associates.

He was now instructed to proceed, on his arrival in Africa, to the river Niger; the rise, course, and termination of which he should endeavour to ascertain; to visit, if possible, every principal place in its vicinity, especially Houssa and Tombuctoo; and then to return either by the Gambia; or such a route as his own prudence might suggest.

To these instructions were added the warmest encouragements; and our author was honoured with a recommendatory letter from the Secretary to the Association, directed to Dr. Laidley, who had some concerns in a British factory on the banks of the Gambia.

Thus prepared, and furnished with a letter of credit on the doctor, for the sum of 200*l*. Mr. Park left Portsmouth, May 22, 1795, in the *Endeavour*, a small vessel which traded for ivory and bees' wax to Gambia, under the direction of captain Richard Wyatt.

They came within view of those mountains, on the African coast, which stand over Mogadore, on the 4th of June; and after an agreeable voyage, cast

anchor, on the 21st, before Jillifree, which rises from the northern bank of the Gambia, opposite the spot distinguished by the name of James's Island.

Barra, the kingdom in which this town is seated, is fertile in every necessary production; but the chief commodity with which the natives trade is salt; this article they convey by means of their canoes to Bar-raconda, where they barter it for cotton cloths, elephants' teeth, some trifling quantities of gold dust, Indian corn, &c.

None of the chieftains around the river are so universally dreaded by Europeans as the king of this place, to whom traders of the various nations are obliged to pay, on their arrival, certain exorbitant duties, which fall indiscriminately upon every vessel, without regard to its burden or dimensions, and which are rigorously demanded by the governor of Jillifree in person, attended with a numerous train of dependants.

From hence our author sailed on the 23d to the town of Vintain, standing on the southern bank, about two miles up a creek, to which Europeans frequently resort, in quest of bees' wax, which is there exposed to sale in considerable quantities.

This wax is collected from the woods by an unsociable race of men, denominated Feloops, who supply the sons of commerce on the Gambia with rice, in which this country abounds, poultry, goats, &c. at a very moderate price.

Their honey possesses the powers of intoxication, and nearly resembles the mead which is used in England.

When engaged in traffic, they provide a Mandingo factor, who understands, in some degree, the English language, and who is well acquainted with the commerce of the river, to make their bargains, and receive their money. A *part*, however, of the latter is given to the employer, while the remainder is con-

veyed to the pocket of the broker, as a compensation for his own trouble.

Of their language we can only observe: it seems peculiar, but European travellers have neither occasion nor inclination to make it their study.

Leaving Vintain, May 26th, the vessel sailed up the river, which is of considerable depth, with muddy water. It contains, however, an abundance of fish, many species of which, though unknown to us, are truly excellent in taste and quality.

Sharks and alligators are likewise found, with the hippopotamus, or river horse, which some writers deem a sea elephant, on account of its surprising magnitude, and its teeth yielding excellent ivory.

This creature is amphibious; its legs short and sturdy, its hoofs cloven, and its disposition inoffensive. It subsists on the grass or herbage of the banks, beyond which it seldom strays, and from whence, on the approach of man, it plunges, for retreat, amidst its favourite element.

Thickets of mangrove frequently adorn the banks, and a swampy, level soil appears through the circumjacent country.

At the expiration of six days, we find the ship at Jonkakonda, a respectable place for commerce, in expectation of some lading which was intended there to be embarked.

A number of traders left their factories, the next morning, to learn the particulars of the cargo, and to receive the letters from their correspondents, when the captain apprized Dr. Laidley, by a messenger, of our traveller's arrival.

The following day brought the doctor to the town, who, on perusing the secretary's letter, politely invited Mr. Park to his own residence at Pisania, where they safely arrived, July 5th, and at which our author was accommodated with a suit of apartments.

Pisania is a village of small dimensions, about six-

teen miles higher up the country than Jonkakonda, on the Gambian banks. Its factory was established by the subjects of Great Britain, who, with their negro servants, are its only inhabitants, under the dominion of the king of Yany.

At this place, Mr. Park began to study the Mandingo language, in which he received important assistance from Dr. Laidley; and, anxious to gain some intelligence of the country he had undertaken to examine, he consulted a mercantile class of free blacks, called Slatees, who often bring down slaves from the interior, and who in this part of Africa are much respected.

Their replies to our traveller appeared strange and contradictory, and instead of gratifying his curiosity, they unanimously advised him to relinquish the prosecution of his design.

About this period our author was afflicted with a violent fever, occasioned by the falling dews, to which he imprudently exposed himself in the observation of a lunar eclipse, from which he expected to ascertain the longitude of the place.

His illness for some time affected his senses, and when he began to recover, a trifling excursion, on a sultry day, renewed the fever, and thereby added three weeks to that melancholy confinement, which he had already endured through the greatest part of the month of August.

While labouring under this grievous malady, in a climate unspeakably gloomy at that season, when the black clouds pour down their collected waters in torrents, while respiration is nearly stopped by the hot vapours of the day, and the attentive ear is scared, amidst the sables of the night, by the jackal's shrill cry, the hyæna's savage howl, or the croaking noise of frogs, occasionally drowned in the most tremendous peals of thunder, our readers may naturally suppose, that the kind attentions of Dr. Laidley

must contribute, in a great degree, to the alleviation of Mr. Park's distress, while his pleasant converse soothed the impatience of our suffering traveller; and the heavy hours were insensibly beguiled, in his amiable company, till sickness fled the doctor's mansion, and health revisited the cheek of the stranger.

No picturesque or romantic scenery attracts the gaze of the traveller in this country, which is merely an extensive level, embrowned with numerous woods; but while nature refuses the charms of variety to the eye, the natives rejoice in the superior advantages of abundant fertility.

With a moderate degree of cultivation, the corn shoots up, and tempts the harvest with its gay luxuriance; whilst the cattle are richly supplied from the pastures, and the river yields an abundance of excellent fish.

Rice is here produced in great quantities, with Indian wheat, and several kinds of the holcus, besides various esculent plants, as calavances, onions, ground nuts, cassari, yams, pompions, gourds, water melons, &c. which are raised in the gardens of the inhabitants.

In the vicinity of the towns, indigo and cotton are sometimes found, the former of which is used as an excellent blue in dyeing, and the latter is appropriated to the purposes of apparel.

The preparation of the corn for consumption is effected by bruising the seed in a large mortar, formed of wood, and called a paloon, till the husk is entirely separated from the grain.

It is then cleared from the chaff, by a proper exposure to the wind; after which it is beaten to the consistence of meal, and dressed in various forms, according to the prevailing custom of different countries; but the general mode is thus:

They first add a small quantity of water to their

flour, which they shake together in a large calabash till its united particles assume something of an appearance similar to sago.

Two earthen vessels are then united, either with cow-dung or a sort of paste, the lowermost standing on a fire, and containing some boiling meat, while the other receives, through numerous little perforations, the rising steam, which softens the composition, thus distinguished by the name of kouskous.

The animals which are domesticated nearly resemble those of Europe. Antelopes may be caught in the woods, which, though diminutive in size, afford delicious venison; and swine are frequently seen, but very lightly regarded.

The country likewise produces panthers, hyænas, and elephants; the latter of which these Africans never attempt to subjugate to that service for which they are so eminently qualified by their strength and docility.

Ignorant of the means to acquire such an important conquest, the natives are contented to hunt them down, or otherwise destroy them, that they may sell the teeth to the merchants, while the flesh, by them accounted excellent, is reserved for their own tables.

In agriculture, animals are never used, and the beast of common burden is the ass.

Most kinds of poultry, excepting turkeys, are very plentiful, and the fields abound with Guinea fowl and red partridges.

The labours of husbandry are here extremely simple, being regularly performed by slaves, whose chief implement is a hoe, and to whom the plough is entirely unknown.

An unusual swell of the Gambia happened on the 6th of October, when the high water was fifteen feet beneath the surface of the river. This however subsided, at first by slow degrees, and then by more than twelve inches in twenty-four hours, which, by

the beginning of November, reduced it to its usual level, and restored the tide to its accustomed ebb and flow.

On the abatement of the flood, and a material change in the atmosphere, Mr. Park regained his health, and began to prepare for his intended departure.

Having solicited, by a letter, that the doctor, who was now engaged in a trading concern at Jonkakonda, would procure him a passage with the first caravan which should quit Gambia for the interior, his friend returned to inform him, in person, that he could assure him of such a conveyance on the commencement of the dry season, though it was impossible to fix with precision on the time of its removal.

As our traveller was consequently obliged to remain at Pisania till he could pursue his route beneath the desired protection, we shall here present our readers with a concise description of the people who inhabit the borders of the Gambia.

These may be properly classed under four denominations, comprising the Jaloffs, the Feloops, the Foulahs, and Mandingoes.

The Jaloffs, active and vigorous by nature, are truly martial in their dispositions. Though extremely black, they have not that protuberance of lips, nor that depression of the nose, which is almost universal among the Africans; and therefore they are adjudged by traders superior in their persons to any of the surrounding negroes.

A considerable tract, which divides the Mandingo states from the river Senegal, forms the portion of their inheritance. This they have divided into several independent kingdoms, whose chieftains often levy war against their neighbours, and occasionally turn their weapons on each other.

Their language is significant and copious, and while their features excel the Mandingoes, their ma-

nufactures are likewise preferable; though, in political forms, or superstitious customs, they bear a near resemblance.

The Feloops are remarkably gloomy and unforgiving in their tempers, even thirsting for vengeance in the hour of dissolution; and leaving the rising generation in possession of their animosities.

Hence it is observed, if a man is slain at a feast, which is commonly disturbed by quarrels, his son appears in the sandals of the deceased, regularly on the anniversaries of the tragic accident, till, by sacrificing the hateful cause, he supposes his parent's fate revenged, and his own duty fully discharged.

Yet fierce and vindictive as their dispositions appear, they likewise possess some excellent qualities, as gratitude to their benefactors, and an unshaken fidelity, which have been clearly evinced upon various occasions.

Even British property has been heretofore defended by their courage, and preserved inviolate by their honest punctuality.

While contemplating the picture, our readers will doubtless wish that the mild spirit of Christianity may disperse the clouds of ignorance, and civilize the hearts of such a nation.

The Foulahs, who reside in the vicinity of the Gambia, are universally attached to a pastoral occupation, and therefore often disperse themselves into several kingdoms on the windward coast, where, by paying a tribute for their lands, they either act in the capacity of husbandmen, or devote their lives to the care of their flocks. Their complexions are generally tawny, their hair silky, and their features agreeable.

The Mandingoes, who are the most numerous of all the natives in the African interior, derive their name from the republic of Manding, whence they originally emigrated.

The males are tall and well proportioned, sociable

in disposition, and adequate to laborious employments.

The females are pleasing, frank, and vivacious, and their raiment, which is always cotton, is the produce of their own industry.

A sort of drawers, which descend to the calf of the leg, with a loose frock, white cap, and a pair of sandals, complete the masculine dress.

The women encircle their waists with a piece of cloth, about six feet in length, and three in breadth, which, reaching to their ancles, supplies the want of a petticoat; while a second piece, of the same dimensions, forms an upper robe, which is thrown lightly over the neck and shoulders. Their head-dress varies much, according to the fashion of the districts they inhabit.

Thus, near the Gambia, a stripe of narrow cloth is simply folded above the forehead, in manner of a bandage.

At Bondou, the taste prevails for beads and golden frontlets.

At Ludamar and Kaarta, the hair is considerably elevated, by such artificial methods as were formerly used by the fair sex in England, and adorned with a coral, which pilgrims obtain at the Red Sea; and which, on their return from Mecca, they sell to the natives at a considerable price; while the ladies of Kasson display their ingenuity, by rendering the shells of the ocean subservient to their charms, and which often strike the eye with a graceful simplicity.

The Mandingo language is universally understood, and frequently used by the neighbouring nations.

Their government is monarchical, yet the power of their ruler is considerably limited.

On every important occasion, a select number of their principal persons are assembled, to whose advice the sovereign must attend, and without whom he can neither commence hostilities, nor conclude a pacific treaty.

A chief magistrate is established in almost every town, for the preservation of decorum, as likewise to demand the usual duties from travellers, and to administer justice on other ordinary occasions. He bears the title of the Alkaid, and his office is hereditary.

Like the generality of other Africans, the Mandingoes content themselves with such dwelling-houses as are both small and incommodious.

A conical roof, formed of bamboo, and covered with grass, is usually supported by a circular wall of mud, rising four feet from the ground, which is appropriated, as chance directs, to the repose of royalty, or the shelter of a slave.

An equal degree of simplicity is affixed to their domestic furniture, which merely comprises a bed, of mat or skins, placed on a cane hurdle, and sustained by various stakes, about the height of twenty-four inches; a couple of stools, a jar for water, some earthen pots for cookery, and a few calabashes.

The religion of this, with the nations of the Jaloffs, Feloops, and Foulahs, consists in numerous blind superstitions, which have been early imbibed from the practice of their Pagan ancestors; yet the doctrines of Mahomet have made a great progress among them, and the zealous disciples of that impostor brand their more harmless brethren with the name of Kafirs, or infidels.

Polygamy being used among the Africans, their ladies are accommodated with separate dwellings; to prevent those altercations which might otherwise disturb the peace of a family.

All places of this description, belonging to one master, are inclosed with a kind of wicker fence, constructed of split bamboo, which inclosure is denominated a surk.

A quantity of these surks, with intermediate spaces, forms a town; in which, however, the houses are extremely irregular, being placed according to

the fancy of their builders, without a regard to any rule but that of placing the door to front the south-west, by which position the salutary breeze is received from the ocean.

In every town a large stage, composed of plaited cane, is erected beneath the shade of a spreading tree, which skreens it effectually from the sun.

This invention, called the Bantang, occasionally answers the purpose of a cool retreat, a town-house, or a court of judicature; for here the sons of indolence enjoy the fumes of their tobacco, while others repeat the casual occurrences of the day; and here also the public concerns are discussed, and criminals are brought to answer for their enormities.

The followers of Mahomet have likewise a mosque in most of these towns, wherein they perform the celebration of their mistaken worship.

These people, by the introduction of their tenets, have gradually mingled the civil institutions of this prophet with the laws of the country: for, whereas the heathen negroes, ignorant of a written language, formerly decided their controversies by a review of the conduct observed by their forefathers, the Koran believers, on the least scruple, refer to the Alsharra, which is an explicit commentary on the Mahometan laws, both civil and criminal.

Such an appeal has naturally created a class of men, who usurp the name of expositors, and who are permitted to appear as advocates on a trial, either for the plaintiff or defendant.

These lawyers displayed their powers to great advantage at Pisania, on a trial of the following nature:

The corn field of a Mandingo being materially injured by the incursion of an ass, which had broken through the inclosure, the proprietor of the corn, in the heat of resentment, seized upon the animal and cut its throat.

In consequence of this procedure, a Serawooli ne-

gro, to whom the ass belonged, commenced an action (here called a palaver) to obtain a recompense for the beast, which he estimated at a considerable price.

The Mandingo freely acknowledged the fact laid to his charge, but declared that the value affixed to the ass by its owner, did not exceed the damage which he had received in his corn, and therefore he expected the judges should dismiss the cause.

Simple as the point at issue must appear, the Mahometan advocates succeeded so well in perplexing the cause for three successive days, that at the expiration of that time the court adjourned without passing a determinate sentence.

We must here remind our readers, that the brief remarks we have made on the natives of this country, are chiefly applicable to such as enjoy the blessing of freedom, but who do not form a greater part than one quarter of the people.

The remainder are slaves by birth and occupation; nor do they derive the least consolation from the idea of a future emancipation, as their bondage is truly hereditary.

They are constantly engaged in the cultivation of the ground, attendance on the cattle, and other servile employments.

If made captives in battle, or enslaved as criminals or insolvents, their lives and persons are entirely in the power of their owner, who may dispose of either without control; but, otherwise, the Mandingo master can neither put his slave to death, nor sell him to a foreigner, without the sanction of a palaver, or the public decision of a trial.

Occasionally, on the absence of vessels from the coast, some masters, of a humane disposition, will kindly incorporate the slaves of his purchase with his other domestics, by which means their children may receive all the privileges of the latter.

The Portuguese were the proprietors of the first

European factory on the Gambia, after whom it regularly passed into the hands of the Dutch, the French, and the English.

For a number of years, its trade was entirely engrossed by the latter, but nearly suffered a complete annihilation afterwards by a free opening to all European commerce.

The value of British exports at present does not amount to 20,000*l.* and three annual vessels, from Great Britain, are the most which this share of the trade will support.

A trifling part is still maintained by the natives of France and Denmark; and a few ships from America have lately entered the river, as a matter of speculation.

European exports to the Gambia are various, as broad cloth, Manchester and India manufactures, cotton caps, iron wares, spirituous liquors, glass beads, amber, fire-arms, ammunition, &c. for which are returned gold dust, ivory, bees wax, hides, and slaves; the latter, allowing for the annual purchase of all nations, seldom amounting to a thousand, though they constitute the chief article of the trade.

The generality of these unfortunate creatures are brought from the inland countries in caravans to the villages, which are sprinkled about the coast, and in which they are confined till the arrival of a slave ship, or the black traders.

In this situation they are obliged to perform the labours of agriculture, beneath the oppressive weight of chains which couple them together, while their allowance is barely sufficient for the support of nature; and humanity recoils at their ungentle treatment.

Their prices are mostly regulated, as in a market of cattle, by the attendance of bidders; but in general a healthy male, from sixteen years of age to twenty-five, will ensure his owner 18*l.* or 20*l.*

The Slatees, already described, besides their hu-

man merchandise, supply the natives with a commodity which is extracted from the kernel of a nut, and which, from its resemblance to butter, is deemed an article of importance in domestic purposes, and therefore demanded with avidity.

They also bring with them some native iron, frankincense, and odoriferous gums, for which they receive considerable quantities of salt, which is both scarce and valuable in their own country.

The inland towns are, however, occasionally supplied by the industry of the Moors, who procure it from pits in the Great Desert, and exchange it for corn, slaves, and cotton cloths, in which species of commerce the persons who receive the salt make use of little shells, by them called kowries.

Iron proved the most attractive on the first intercourse of the natives with the Europeans; and as its importance in husbandry and the art of war ensured it a preference to all other articles, so it shortly became the standard whereby all other merchandise was estimated.

In their commerce, by which any particular quantity of goods is allowed equivalent to a bar of another sort, the current value of which is reckoned at two shillings, the Africans are not easily satisfied, as being conscious of the superior advantages which the Europeans have over them; and on this account a bargain is never deemed complete by the latter, till the money is paid down, and the negroes are departed.

Our traveller now quitted Pisanía, Dec. 2d, 1795, on horseback, attended by a black servant, who, understanding the English and Mandingo languages, might act as an interpreter; and a negro lad, of a sprightly disposition, who was well acquainted both with the Mandingo and Serawooli nations.

The baggage was no great incumbrance, comprising merely some changes of linen, a pocket sextant, two brace of pistols, a thermometer, two fowl-

ing pieces, a magnetic compass, and umbrella, with a small quantity of tobacco, amber, beads, &c.

The servants were accommodated with a couple of asses, while a free inhabitant, called Madibou, with two Slatees, and Tami, the late blacksmith of Dr. Laidley, accompanied him on foot, preceded by their respective animals.

Even the doctor himself determined to devote two days to the undertaking of his friend, and accordingly joined our adventurer, with some particular friends, and a number of domestics, as the little procession moved from his hospitable mansion.

On the same day they arrived at Jindey, and were entertained at the house of a negro lady, called Seniorsa, whose charms had formerly captivated an European trader.

From hence our author strolled to the neighbouring village, which acknowledged for its owner Jemaffoo Mamadoo, the most opulent of the Gambian Slatees, to whom the arrival of Mr. Park was so agreeable, that a fine bullock was immediately selected from the herd, as a present to the English stranger, and was chiefly roasted the same night, in honour of his visit to the wealthy merchant.

As the negroes usually defer their supper till a late hour, a Mandingo undertook to amuse the guests, while their repast was providing, with the following tale :

“The natives of Doomasansa having received a variety of injuries from the nocturnal approaches of a lion, by whom their cattle in particular was nearly destroyed, resolved, by hunting this terrific animal, to stop his future depredations.

“After spending a short time in search of the enemy, they discovered him amidst the branches of a thicket, and by a well-directed fire brought him to the ground, in the very instant of his springing towards them.

“Yet in spite of his mischance, the noble beast re-

tained too considerable a degree of ferocity, to admit the attack of a single arm; and as none of the hunters appeared anxious to obtain the honour attached to his destruction, they proposed to unite their endeavours in such a manner as to secure him in his present condition.

“On this proposal, an aged man demanded attention to the subsequent plan, which must appear simple in the performance, and infallible in its effect:

“Unroof a neighbouring hut, said he; and when the frame, which is of bamboo, firmly united with thongs, is deprived of the thatch, it will form a sufficient cage for our purpose, and may therefore be thrown over the animal: but if, on your approach, he should endeavour to quit his posture, you may secure yourselves by dropping the frame, and destroy your foe by firing against him through the spaces.

“This speech had the desired effect. A hut was instantly dismantled of its covering, and the hunters, supporting the intended den on their shoulders, marched with unusual courage towards the wounded savage, whose formidable appearance still served to chill their ardour, and inclined them unanimously to creep beneath the roof for shelter.

“A fatal mistake now took place; for either through their own timidity, or an unexpected exertion of the beast, the roof was let down in such a manner as to include the furious creature with his pursuers, who were consequently devoured, to the terror and astonishment of the Doomasansa beholders, who, since that mortifying accident, are most violently enraged, if any one requests them to take a lion alive.”

The following day our author bade adieu to the doctor and his friends, and proceeded slowly towards the woods.

While meditating on the perils to which his attempt must inevitably expose him, his progress was impeded, in the midst of an extensive forest, by a

number of persons, who informed him, that he must either pay them the usual customs, or otherwise attend them immediately to the sovereign of Walli.

The prudence of our traveller inclined him to comply with their demand; and accordingly, by delivering four bars of tobacco into their hands for the use of their monarch, he was allowed to pursue his journey without molestation.

On the morrow, he stopped at Kootacunda, after passing the night in an adjacent village, to pay some other duties which are there collected, it being the last town in the kingdom of Walli; and on the subsequent day he arrived at Medina, which is the king of Wooli's capital.

The dominions of this prince are bounded on the east by the Simbani Wilderness, on the west by Walli, on the north-east by Bondou, and on the north by the Gambia.

The towns are mostly seated in valleys, surrounded by some cultivated spots, whose produce yields an equivalent to the wants of the natives; supplying them with vegetables, tobacco, cotton, &c.; while the circumjacent country is universally covered with thick woods and extensive forests.

The natives, who are Mandingoes, are divided into two religious sects; the one professes obedience to Mahomet, and the other holds their Pagan ceremonies, and are denominated Bushreens, or Kafirs.

Those who endure this term of reproach are, nevertheless, the rulers of the nation, and far exceed the Mahometans in their number.

The converts to the Koran are, indeed, consulted on any business of public consequence; but the executive power is vested exclusively in the hands of their king or mansa, with the great officers of his appointment, who retain the ancient rites of their ancestors.

On the demise of the sovereign, the crown descends to his eldest son, unless a minor; but if there is no

male issue, or if the prince has not attained to the years of maturity, either the brother of the deceased monarch, or his other nearest relative, is established, by consent of a council, with full powers to guide the political helm.

The expenses attendant upon this government are cleared by the taxes which are paid for all goods conveyed through the country; and likewise by a tribute, which is occasionally exacted from the inhabitants.

When travellers proceed from the Gambia to the interior, the customs are claimed in European articles; but on their return iron will suffice, which must, however, be paid in every town they enter.

Medina in its extent is considerable, and may probably contain near a thousand houses. The fortifications are in the African style, consisting of a high clay wall, and an exterior defence of sharp stakes and thorny bushes; but the wall is evidently falling to decay through the negligence of the people; and the out-work has suffered materially from the industry of the females, who frequently remove the stakes to their own habitations, to supply the need of other fuel.

A person, related to the king, accommodated Mr. Park with a lodging at his own house, and promised him an introduction to his royal kinsman, with whom our author was desired not to shake hands, as such a familiarity was never allowed to a stranger.

With this caution he proceeded to the regal hut, where he found the venerable personage, whose character was formerly transmitted to Europe by the pen of major Houghton, sitting upon a mat before the door of his simple habitation, while several persons, of both sexes, were employed in clapping their hands and singing before him.

Our author saluted him with a graceful reverence, and humbly requested permission to pass to Bondou,

through his dominions; to which the monarch, whose name was Jatta, not only consented, but assured him that he would offer up his devotions for his preservation.

On this declaration, an attendant began a song in the Arabic tongue, to which the king and surrounding courtiers pathetically answered Amen in every pause, at the same time striking their foreheads with an air of expressive solemnity.

The following day, in consequence of a promise given by his majesty, our adventurer revisited the rustic palace, to inquire if a guide might then attend him; but on his repeating the question, his majesty, who was seated on a hide before a large fire, earnestly entreated him to relinquish his intentions, assuring him, that major Houghton lost his life in the course of his journey; and adding, that Mr. Park, by an exposure of his person in an unknown country, might probably meet with a similar fate.

The tender solicitude of the monarch demanded the warmest effusions of gratitude from our traveller; but at the same time he confessed his intentions to proceed were too firmly rooted in his breast to be overthrown by the contemplation of any risk whatever: on hearing which, the sovereign shook his head, and desisted from further importunity.

In the afternoon, our traveller took leave of the worthy old king; and after three hours riding, alighted with his guide at a small village, called Konjour, where he determined to repose for the night.

He here obtained a fine sheep, in exchange for a small quantity of beads; and the animal was prepared for supper by his attendants, with several peculiar rites required by their religion.

When the repast was concluded, an altercation took place between Johnson the interpreter, and a Serawooli, who had officiated as butcher, respecting

the creature's horns, which the negro demanded as his proper perquisite, but whose claim was vehemently opposed by Johnson.

To terminate the dispute, our author divided the cause of the controversy, and bestowed a single horn on each of the opponents.

From an inquiry which naturally arose concerning the value of those things, Mr. Park understood they were highly prized, as being easily appropriated to the purpose of cases or sheaths, to contain the saphies, which the people superstitiously fasten to some part of their apparel.

These saphies, which are commonly detached sentences from the Koran, written on small bits of paper by the priests of Mahomet, are supposed by the natives to include some peculiar virtues, and therefore they wear them as amulets or charms, to defend them from the poison of serpents, the attack of alligators, the weapons of their foes, and the natural diseases of the human body.

They have likewise the weakness to imagine, that hunger and thirst may be prevented by the possession of these wondrous papers, and the protection of superior intelligences thereby conciliated.

Indeed, the art of writing is, on this part of the continent, considered in itself as a species of magic, and upon that idea they rest their opinions with much greater confidence than on the doctrines of the prophet.

From hence our traveller made an excursion to the village of Malla, at which he slept, and then pursued his route to the more considerable town of Kolor.

His attention was here excited, on his entry, by a fantastic kind of dress, composed of bark, and suspended from a tree, which, the natives informed him, belonged to Mumbo Jumbo.

This is an odd invention of the Pagans, in the Mandingo country, to keep their wives in awe;

among whom, as the number is not restricted, such quarrels frequently arise as seem to threaten the dissolution of the husband's authority.

When this is the case, the tumult is speedily hushed by an appeal to Mumbo Jumbo, by whose decision, though always unfavourable, the African ladies must abide.

On the invocation of this strange arbiter, the neighbouring woods resound with loud and dismal screams, which precede the entrance of the tremendous judge into the town or village.

When night has spread her clouds over the face of nature, he comes in the masquerade attire, already mentione^d, to a spot where all the inhabitants assemble, and on which the jarring females dare not refuse to meet him.

The rites are then begun with songs and dances, which divert the time till the hour of midnight, when the culprit is seized by the implacable Mumbo, and being tied naked to a post, cruelly chastised with his rod of public authority, amidst the deriding shouts of the beholders, and the clamorous abuse of her misjudging sisters, who are, if possible, more outrageous than the men, till the rising dawn disperses the riotous assembly.

Quitting Kolor, our traveller proceeded through Tambacunda and Kooniakary, and in two days arrived at Koojar, which is the first town on the frontier of Wooli.

From this place the guide returned, after receiving some amber as a recompense for his journey; and Mr. Park, on hearing of the scarcity of water in the wilderness, engaged with three elephant hunters to attend him in the double capacity of water carriers and guides, for which he advanced them the pay of three days immediately.

The townsmen regarded our author with evident marks of astonishment, but civilly invited him to an

entertainment of wrestling and dancing, which is frequently practised among the Mandingoes, and which was at the Bantarg, or town-house, in the evening.

A ring was formed for the wrestlers, around which the spectators were arranged; while a man, by beating on a drum with a crooked stick, gave the sound of certain sentences, which seemed to direct the motions of the assembly; as, for instance, when the games were to begin, he struck a note, which signified, "Sit down," on which the company immediately took their places; and on his striking in another manner, "Take hold, take hold," the wrestlers began the appointed diversion.

These persons were active, young, and vigorous, without any other raiment than a pair of short drawers, who, being first anointed with vegetable butter, or oil, approached each other on their hands and knees, each parrying with the other, or occasionally stretching out his hand, till by a fortunate exertion he grasped the knee of his antagonist.

A surprising degree of judgment and dexterity was then displayed, but the superiority of strength obtained the conquest; and indeed the victor was such a person as but few Europeans might have ventured to assail.

The drum, before alluded to, seemed to lend both regularity and animation to these muscular combatants; as also to direct the measures of the dance which ensued, while its sounds were occasionally changed by an application of the drummer's left hand to the head of the instrument.

The dancers were distinguished by a number of little bells, which were fastened round their arms and legs; and several of the first performers joined in this amusement.

Between the games, a liquor was handed round to the assembly, which, from its near resemblance to the beer in England, excited a great desire in Mr. Park to learn the nature of its composition; who was

accordingly informed, that it was produced from a species of corn, called *holcus spicatus*, which, for this purpose, is prepared in much the same manner as barley is malted in Great Britain, while the want of hops is well supplied by a native root which yields an agreeable bitter.

The next day, one of the hired negroes left the town with the sum he had received in advance; when our traveller, to prevent the like desertion in his companions, caused their calabashes to be filled, and entered directly upon his important business.

After travelling a little way, these men refused to advance any further, unless a saphie was prepared, to ensure them a prosperous journey.

Accordingly a stone was laid on the earth, upon which they spat thrice, muttering a few incoherent words; after which ridiculous ceremony they cheerfully renewed their progress.

Our author's surprise was next excited by the whimsical appearance of a large tree, which the natives call the *Neema Taba*, with a variety of cloth fragments suspended from its branches: finding, however, it was an invariable custom of travellers, who crossed the Wilderness, to place such an appendage to this notable tree, he followed the unaccountable example without any hesitation.

A more important subject now engrossed his thoughts: a supply of water being necessary, he dispatched one of the guides in quest of a pool, while the asses were unladen and refreshed with provender; but on the man's return, who had discovered, near the water, which was thick and stagnant, some late-extinguished embers and scattered provisions, which clearly proved a recent visit from either banditti or travellers, Mr. Park thought fit to alter his design, lest persons of the former description might still be concealed in the vicinity of the place, to whom himself and timorous attendants might become an easy prey.

They accordingly continued their route, till they came to the next watering-place, at which, the night approaching, they were obliged to remain, till the morning, without any pillow but the bosom of the earth, and encircled by their animals.

The negroes, however, kindled a large fire, and agreed to watch by turns, that the others might sleep securely amidst the gloomy desert which surrounded them.

At the rising dawn they replenished their calabashes and skins from the neighbouring pool, and pursued their journey to Tallika, at which they safely arrived in the course of the day.

This town, which is the Bondou frontier towards Wooli, is the residence of Mahometan Foulahs, who, by their sale of ivory and provision to travellers, are enabled to live in ease and elegance.

Here also the sovereign of Bondou maintains a person, whose employment consists in giving timely intimation of the caravans which arrive, with the exact number of their loaded animals, for which a proportionate duty is demanded.

Beneath the roof of this officer, our author accepted a temporary accommodation, and agreed to accompany him to Fateconda, the seat of the monarch.

The ensuing morning he quitted Tallika; but having proceeded a couple of miles, his progress was delayed by a quarrel, which arose between the blacksmith and one of his companions, who was much inflamed by several opprobrious epithets, liberally bestowed by the former. This, to an African worse than a blow, enraged the traveller to such a degree, that he drew his cutlass upon the injurious railer, and would certainly have wounded him, had not our author interposed, and remanded the weapon to its scabbard, while he obliged the blacksmith to proceed in silence.

The night was passed at Ganada, where a comfortable supper and some mutual presents restored

tranquillity to the agitated parties; and the whole company retired late to rest, being greatly amused by an itinerant singer, who recited a variety of agreeable tales, and played some melodious airs on a bow-string, by an application of his breath and some strokes of a stick.

From this place they removed on the morrow, and crossed the Neriko, a notable branch of the Gambia, about a mile beyond Ganada.

The declivities of its banks were clothed with mimosas, and a number of fine muscles were discernible in the mud, but disregarded by the natives.

To avoid the fervour of the meridian sun, they reposed a while beneath a spreading tree, where they regaled themselves with milk and bruised corn; and by sun-set reached the town of Koorkarany.

This is a Mahometan residence, containing a mosque, and encircled with a high wall. Mr. Park was here favoured with a view of several Arabic manuscripts, and several abstruse passages in the *Al Shara* were highly elucidated, by the priest who keeps this treasure, in the Mandingo language; in return for which civility, Mr. Park agreeably surprised the expositor with a sight of Richardson's Arabic Grammar.

After satisfying his curiosity at this place, our traveller visited Doogi, which is a small village three miles distant from Koorkarany, at which six small pieces of amber are sufficient to purchase a fine bullock.

On his departure, a considerable addition was made to his numbers, by several Foulahs and others, who together formed a considerable body, and thus precluded the apprehensions which might have otherwise arisen from the idea of robbers in the woods.

The negroes now used a singular method to reduce a refractory ass to obedience, by cutting a stick with a forked point, which point they placed in the animal's mouth in manner of a bit, while the other part

s

were twisted about his head, except the lower part of the stick, which was left sufficiently long to strike against either stones, roots, or the ground itself, if the ass attempted to hold down his head.

Finding the inconvenience which attended his obstinacy, the creature afterwards carried his neck in a proper position, and quietly proceeded with his drivers.

The evening presented to their view an extensive country, well cultivated and spotted with small villages, from which they selected Buggil for their present abode, and passed away the hours of darkness in a wretched hovel, with miserable provisions, and a bundle of corn stalks in place of a bed.

The wells in this situation are deep, and display some ingenuity in their formation. The bucket-rope of one was measured, which proved a hundred and sixty-eight feet long.

Proceeding from hence by a stony dry declivity, overrun with mimosas, they passed the morning ; but about noon they began to descend, by a sloping path, towards the east, which conducted them to the bosom of a deep valley, abundant in white quartz and whin stone.

A spacious village next appeared, at which they designed to rest ; but the troublesome behaviour of the ladies, who arrayed in byqui, which is similar to French gauze, surrounded our author with petitions for presents, tore his upper garment, and cut away the buttons from his boy's apparel, obliged him to remount his horse, and make what haste he could from those tormenting harpies.

The same night he entered Soobrudooka, where, after partaking of a sheep and a quantity of corn, his company, amounting to fourteen persons, were exposed till morning to the falling dews ; when they proceeded to a considerable village, seated on the side of the Falemè river, the stream of which is rapid, and its environs extremely rocky, but the circumja-

cent country is abundantly fertile and beautiful. Fields of grain, by the natives called manio, and by botanists *holcus cernuus*, wave their golden heads around the coast.

Our traveller found the inhabitants attentively pursuing their fishery, which is performed after various modes, according to the size of the fishes, the largest being caught in baskets of split cane, many feet in length, which are placed in the midst of an impetuous current, formed by a ridge or wall of stone, across the river; while the smaller ones are easily taken by cotton hand-nets, which are both wove and used by these people with surprising dexterity.

The latter species of this fish, somewhat resembling sprats, are generally pounded in a mortar, and then exposed in little pyramids, like sugar loaves, to the drying influence of the sun.

By the Moors who inhabit the northern parts of Senegal, this preparation, though disagreeable in smell, is accounted a great luxury. It is commonly dissolved in boiling water, and mixed up with the kouskous.

After a little excursion, our author was visited by a Moorish shereeff, rather advanced in years, who came to bestow his benediction upon the English guest, for which he requested some pieces of paper to contain his saphies.

Finding that this person had seen major Houghton, who, he said, died in the Moorish country, Mr. Park presented him with some sheets of paper; and he likewise obtained a few from the blacksmith.

The next morning a canoc was engaged to carry the baggage over the river, while our traveller passed through on horseback, though the water encircled his knees, and arrived, in the middle of the day, at Fateconda, in which he was politely accommodated by a Slatee of respectability.

A messenger now brought an order from the court for his immediate appearance before the king; on

which our author arose, and with his interpreter followed his majesty's servant to a large tree, which served as a canopy to a man who was sitting beneath it upon a mat, and who our traveller heard was Almaní, the pagan monarch.

On Mr. Park's approach, the sovereign invited him to sit on the royal mat; and, after the preliminary discourse, inquired whether he came to purchase gold or slaves.

A negative reply seemed to astonish him; but dismissing the stranger for the present, he promised him some provisions, and desired him to return in the evening.

At the appointed time Mr. Park repeated his visits, carrying with him an umbrella, with some amber, tobacco, and gunpowder.

All the apartments of the royal family are encircled by a mud wall of a considerable height, which gives them, thus united, the appearance of a little citadel, and the interior is separated into several distinct courts.

Mr. Park, on his first entrance, found the door guarded by a man with a musquet, and observed the passages were remarkably intricate which led to the presence chamber.

The monarch was seated on a mat, with two attendants, when our author explained the nature of his journey, which his majesty imagined none but a lunatic would have ever engaged in through curiosity, or indeed in any other manner than as a trader.

The presents, however, were graciously received, and the umbrella was peculiarly acceptable, when Mr. Park discovered its utility, which the astonished king could not possibly surmise; but when that mystery was cleared, the machine was repeatedly expanded and furled, to the great entertainment of himself and his attendants.

On our author attempting to withdraw, he was requested to stop while the king pronounced a long eulogium on white men, which terminated in a petition for the coat which was worn by Mr. Park, whose yellow buttons attracted the sovereign's eye, and which bore no mean share in the royal compliments.

As the request of an African ruler, in his own capital, may be reckoned equal to a command, the coat was prudently laid at the monarch's feet, who, in return, presented our traveller with abundance of provisions, and requested his attendance the following day.

In consequence of this desire, Mr. Park returned to the palace in the morning, where he found his majesty confined to his bed by an indisposition.

At first the king appeared desirous to be bled by the European; but as his spirits sunk at the requisite preparation, he waved it till the afternoon, by observing that, as his females were anxious to see the traveller, he might be now conducted to their presence.

When arrived in the seraglio, he was encompassed by the ladies, some of whom petitioned for amber, others for medicine, and all were desirous to experience the virtues of phlebotomy.

These persons, about a dozen in number, were chiefly young and well featured, with a profusion of gold and amber about their heads.

Their converse was sprightly and intermixed with raillery, which they laughably directed at the prominence of our author's nose, and the colour of his skin, neither of which they could suppose the work of nature, but imagined the formation of the first was acquired by *pinching*, and the whiteness of the second proceeded from frequent immersions in milk during the years of infancy.

To this discourse Mr. Park returned a gallant answer, complimentary to the features and complexion

of the sable critics ; but they assured him that flattery, which they justly termed *honey mouth*, was not estimated in their dominions.

On his taking leave, some fish, with a jar of honey, were sent to his residence from the seraglio, and he was commanded to attend his majesty again by sunset.

In the interim we shall lay before our readers a concise description of the kingdom.

The boundaries of Bondou are, Bambouk on the was; Tendu, and the Simbani Wilderness on the south; Wooli on the south-west; Foota Torra on the west; and Kajaaga on the north.

The country, which is elevated and rather mountainous, is covered with a profusion of forest scenery, while in richness and fertility it is not inferior to any tract in Africa.

From its central situation between the Senegal and Gambia rivers, Bondou is frequently visited by the Slatees, and others, who occasionally trade hither for salt (these are commonly natives of the Serawooli or Mandingo nations), who likewise extend their commerce to Gedumah, and other parts of the Moorish country, from which they receive salt in exchange for corn and cotton cloths; they likewise deal in a variety of fragrant gums, with which the Mandingoes often perfume their dwellings and apparel.

Travellers are here burdened with some heavy duties, from which the king derives a superiority over the bordering states by an excellent supply of arms and ammunition.

The inhabitants, who are already described under the class of Foulahs, though naturally of a mild disposition, are not so remarkable for hospitality as the Mandingoes; which defect may be probably attributed to the uncharitable maxims of their prophet.

By his laws their government is directed, notwithstanding their sovereign is a pagan, and his doctrines

are frequently imbibed by young persons, who read the Koran in their town schools, at which the Arabic tongue is likewise attainable.

Toleration, however, is granted to persons of a different faith, and persecution is a stranger to the country.

They have the highest veneration for their own countrymen, whom they judge superior to all the negroes, and who in conversation are always ranked by them with the white nations.

Their industry is obvious, even on the banks of the Gambia, where their corn is finer, and their flocks more numerous than any in the Mandingo possession; but in this, their native country, they enjoy an abundance of wealth, from their pastoral occupations, while a glorious harvest attends their exertions, and the cattle multiply beneath their unremitting kindness and attention.

These are carefully penned, in a proper inclosure, near the villages, to which they are led, from the woods, at the approach of night. In the midst of the fold a little hut is erected, which serves as a watch-box to the person who attends to prevent any robbing, while a large fire forms a sufficient barrier against the savage beasts of the Desert.

Their milk, though not so plentiful as in Europe, is drawn from the animals every morning and evening, but is never eaten till it is sour; the cream, which is very thick, the natives transform into butter by shaking it violently in a calabash, after which it is dissolved on a gentle fire, and preserved for use in earthen vessels. With this they liberally anoint their faces, heads, and arms, and likewise use it with most of their provisions; but they are totally ignorant of the formation of cheese, the art of which appears too troublesome, and the scarcity of salt precludes the idea of any material advantage which might result from its introduction.

Among their cattle, these people possess some valuable horses, which are probably a mixed breed of the original African with those of Arabia.

The custom of the place requiring a small present from departing travellers, Mr. Park devoted a few beads and some writing-paper to the service of the king, at their last interview, and received five drachms of gold in return, which the monarch observed, "though a mere trifle, was nevertheless a token of friendship, and might prove of some utility in the course of a journey." He also added, "though it was usual for the baggage of every person who crossed his dominions to undergo a strict examination, the ceremony should be now omitted, and his guest might depart, whenever he chose, without molestation."

Our traveller accordingly quitted Fateconda, and intended to rest at a little village which stands on the boundary between Bondou and Kajaaga; but being advised to proceed by night, as the part was both inhospitable and dangerous, he adopted the measure, and hired two men to conduct him through the woods.

The deep gloom of the forest which they now entered, occasionally admitted a transient view of the rising moon, and the terrific howl of monsters, succeeded by a solemn stillness, impressed the mind with awe, and rendered the scene extremely pensive.

Not a sentence was spoken but in the softest whisper, while every eye was directed to the distant thicket, from whence the wolves and hyæn is repeatedly glided, and to which the finger of each beholder was silently extended, in token of his horrid discovery.

At break of day they discovered the village of Kimmoo, where they stopped to refresh the asses with some corn, and at which they partook of a few roasted nuts. When sufficiently rested, they pursued their journey, and arrived in the afternoon at Joag, the frontier town of Kajaaga.

This kingdom, which the French distinguish by the name of Gallam, is bounded on the south and south-east by Bambouk, on the west by Foota Torra and Bondou, and on the north by the Senegal.

The climate is healthy, and the air salubrious ; the country charmingly diversified with hills and valleys ; and the interior rocks, whose sides are laved by a beautiful meander of the Senegal waters, create a picturesque and lovely scene.

The complexion of the natives, who are Serawoolies, is a glossy black ; they are of a commercial disposition, formerly supplying the subjects of France with slaves and gold, and still continuing a trade with several English factors on the Gambia, by whom, though inexpressibly ardent to procure riches, they are accounted honest in their mercantile transactions.

As their expeditions are generally attended with considerable profit, the neighbours assemble, on the return of a Serawooli, to offer their congratulations, and taste of that liberality which is usually evinced upon such an occasion, amidst the display of his acquired wealth ; but if fortune has proved unkind to the adventurer, he is soon deserted, as an ignorant person, who, to use their own expression, could bring back nothing after a long journey but the hair upon his head.

Their language is rather inharmonious, their government monarchical, and the authority of their ruler extensive.

The town of Joag is invested with a high wall, and may probably contain two thousand inhabitants. The wall is provided with port-holes, and every private habitation is encircled with a similar defence, by which means the place resembles an assemblage of little citadels strongly fortified.

In the vicinity of the town a small river glides along, while onions and tobacco are raised on its banks, with great success, by the natives.

Our traveller was accommodated with a lodging by the Dooty of Joag, who, though a rigid Musulman, was remarkable for his hospitality to strangers. In the evening Mr. Park accepted an invitation to a dance, which was performed around some large fires, to the music of four drums, which were uniformly beaten through the whole course of the recreation.

These dances were chiefly composed of lascivious movements, without the least attention to attitude or graceful agility ; and the ladies, in particular, were anxious to rival each other in such gestures as were highly unsuitable to that modesty which we naturally expect as the companion of the sex.

Next morning, the Dooty was awakened by a number of horsemen, who entered the house and approached the bed of our traveller. One of them attempted to purloin a musquet ; but finding himself observed by Mr. Park, he withdrew his hand ; when a second company joined the intruders, and, resting on their pieces, encircled the amazed European.

On our author's requesting them to explain their business in the Mandingo tongue, a man of diminutive stature replied, that the king had sent them to conduct him to Maana, as he had presumed to enter the town without paying the accustomed duties, or sending any present to his majesty ; for which omission the liberty of himself and companions was forfeited by the law, with all other things to them appertaining ; and concluded by asking if he was ready to depart, as, in case of opposition, they were empowered to proceed by force.

The stranger now entreated a short delay, while his horse might be fed ; and his lodging discharged when the blacksmith pathetically conjured him not to go, as, in all probability, a war would speedily commence between Kasson and Kajaaga, when slavery must inevitably result from his compliance, together with the confiscation of all his property.

Mr. Park then endeavoured to obtain permission from Mandiboo, his majesty's son, who came as conductor of the party, for the blacksmith to continue at Joag, while he attended them to the royal residence; but this was peremptorily refused.

In this dilemma our author applied to his host, to whom he presented some gunpowder, for advice; whose answer agreeing with the fears of the blacksmith, Mr. Park resolved, if possible, to end the business by a compromise.

He accordingly produced five drachms of gold, as a present to the sovereign, at the same time apologizing for his reprehensible conduct.

The gold was accepted, and his baggage lightened of half its contents, as the fancy of the robbers directed, who appeared much disappointed at finding so little gold and amber, and who continued wrangling about their respective shares till sun-set, when they departed.

Despoiled of his treasures, and destitute of money, our adventurer, with his people, was now in a truly pitiable condition, apparently exposed to famine, in a strange country, unknown and disregarded.

The following evening, however, he obtained a seasonable supply; for, whilst he was ruminating upon his deplorable situation, and holding some straws in his mouth, a female slave with a basket on her head accosted him, and inquired if he had any provisions.

Our traveller made no reply, but his negro lad informed her of the harsh treatment which they had received from his majesty's servants. This simple tale appeared to melt the good old woman's heart, who, lifting down her basket, presented him with some handfuls of ground nuts, and immediately departed, before Mr. Park could express his gratitude for her benevolence.

Scarce had our author concluded his meal, when he was apprized of a visit from Demba Sego, a ne-

phew of the Mandingo king of Kasson, who, on his arrival, promised the European his countenance and protection, and offered to conduct him safely to his uncle's dominions.

This offer was accepted with many acknowledgments, and Mr. Park, with his companions, joyfully departed on the following day with the retinue of the prince.

In the course of their journey, the interpreter tied a white chicken to the branch of a tree, which he had hitherto sought in vain, and then assured the company of success in their undertakings, as he had thus made an oblation to the spirits of the forest, whom he described as possessing an extensive power, of a white complexion, and with flowing hair.

By noon they came to the town of Gungadi, pretty considerable in its dimensions, and remarkable for date trees and a clay mosque, supporting six turrets, which are crowned with the same number of ostrich eggs.

From hence they proceeded to Samee, which is pleasantly situated on the banks of the Senegal, whose crystal stream, here rather shallow, glides softly over a sandy bottom; the acclivities on either side are covered with a beautiful verdure, and the circumjacent soil is richly cultivated.

Leaving this town, the ensuing morning, they entered the spacious village of Kayee, and soon arrived at a remarkable cataract in its vicinity, which, passing impetuously over a rock of whin stone, precipitates itself into the bason of a deep and muddy river which rolls beneath.

This place the cattle were to pass by swimming, though the height of the bank, which is upwards of forty feet, seemed to render their descent to the water impracticable: the negroes, however, forced the animals down a path which was nearly perpendicular, and the travellers followed, as carefully as possible, to the canoe, which waited to receive the baggage.

A single horse was then guided into the river by a rope ; when all the others, to avoid the blows which now fell on them from all quarters, plunged amidst the stream and followed their leader, while any who attempted to return were urged forward by several boys, who were employed on this occasion.

The asses indeed were extremely troublesome, and, through their natural obstinacy, preferred the worst usage to fording the watery element ; into which, at last, they were driven by force, and safely received on the opposite shore.

Three hours had elapsed during the transportation of the cattle and baggage, when the prince and our adventurer embarked for Ka son, the former of whom, being anxious to discover the contents of a tin box, which stood in the front part of the canoe, by an unlucky motion overturned their vessel : but as they were near the shore, they instantly wrung the water from their raiment ; and then, resuming their abdicated seats, they crossed the river without a second misfortune.

On their landing, Mr. Park was reminded by the prince, that as he was now in his uncle's dominions, a token of gratitude would be expected, in consideration of favours so liberally bestowed upon a stranger ; to which our traveller made a suitable reply, accompanied with a small present of amber and tobacco.

Their journey on the following day was long and tedious ; but at length they arrived at the prince's abode, in Teesee, and were entertained in his own hut.

Mr. Park, on the morrow, was introduced to the old chief of the town, brother to his majesty, and distinguished by the name of Tiggity Sego, who received him with great respect, informed him that he had once before seen a white man, probably major Houghton, and kindly offered to accompany him to the sovereign at Kooniakary.

Teesee, except a citadel, which forms the residence

of its chief, is utterly destitute of fortifications ; its extent is considerable, and some of its customs singular, one of which forbids any woman to eat an egg ; and in consequence of this strange prohibition, a lady of Teesee would imagine herself grossly affronted, if any one should presume to offer her the forbidden food, which the men, however, devour at their pleasure.

The natives are likewise remarkably careless as to the nature of their victuals, frequently feasting upon moles, rats, squirrels, locusts, snakes, &c. though their possessions are abundant in corn and cattle.

Our author here attended a palaver, which Tiggity Sego held, and in which the debates were conducted with equal warmth and ingenuity, upon the following occasion :

A young and wealthy Pagan, on his marriage with a beautiful woman, requested some saphies from a Mahometan priest, which might shield him from accident in the expected war.

The priest complied with the demand, and told him the saphies would prove infallibly efficacious, provided he would abstain six weeks from any conjugal intercourse with his spouse.

This condition, however severe, was religiously accepted ; but, while the husband avoided the company of his lady, without assigning a particular reason, the neighbours began to whisper that the priest was too officious in his visits, and shortly afterwards the woman acknowledged a criminal connexion between them.

In consequence of this confession, she was thrown into confinement, and a palaver held, to investigate the conduct of her old gallant.

In the course of the trial the crime was clearly substantiated, and the culprit condemned to perpetual slavery, or to produce two slaves in his stead, as the choice of the plaintiff should determine.

This, however, was objected, as too severe, by the injured bridegroom, and the sentence was changed to a whipping, which immediately took place, confining the stripes to the Mosaic number of thirty-nine.

The hands of the seducer being properly fastened to a stake, an executioner approached, with a black rod of considerable length, which, after a few dreadful flourishes, was applied with sufficient force to fill the adjacent woods with the echo of the sufferer's cries, while the assembled spectators expressed their approbation in triumphant shouts and repeated bursts of laughter.

As Teesee might probably suffer, during the war, by the depredations of the Moors, Tiggity Sego resolved to collect, from the surrounding villages, if possible, a sufficient stock of provisions for the consumption of one year, exclusive of the produce on the field.

Persons were accordingly delegated on this business, with orders to procure it either by purchase or solicitation ; and, as the natives approved the plan, it was speedily crowned with success.

On the 4th of January our traveller beheld the required treasure enter the town, with an escort of four hundred men, laden with ground nuts and corn, preceded by a respectable body of bowmen, while eight single men brought up the rear.

These last, as they approached Teesee, united in a song, to every verse of which the company beat a response on their drums, till they arrived at Tiggity Sego's gate, where the provisions were delivered, and from whence they proceeded to the Bentang, there to conclude the evening with joyous recreations.

The ensuing day, an assembly of the people was summoned, to hear the purport of an embassy from Alman Abdulkader, king of Foota Torra, which threatened hostilities, in the name of this powerful monarch, unless the inhabitants would embrace the

faith of Mahomet, and give a convincing proof of their conversion, by repeating, publicly, eleven prayers suitable to the occasion.

On this declaration, the people consulted for some time; but at length their timidity vanquished their religion, and they repeated the eleven prescribed petitions, as a solemn abjuration of their former opinions.

A number of persons, headed by Demba Sego, demanded a present from our author, on his proposing to leave the town, in the name of their chief, and likewise inquired respecting the articles designed for his majesty.

Mr. Park immediately offered the conductor five bars of tobacco and seven of amber; but he rejected the present, as unworthy the acceptance of a prince, and threatened to convey the whole of the baggage to court, where the sovereign might please himself.

With these words he began to unpack the goods, and, by the assistance of his servants, soon distributed them over the floor; when every article that struck his fancy was appropriated to his use without further ceremony.

Thus cruelly treated a second time, our author quitted Teesee on the 10th of January, and, after viewing from an eminence the hills of Kooniakary, arrived safely at the town of Jumbo.

As this was the place of the blacksmith's nativity, he was welcomed home by his brother and a singing man, who provided him a horse, that he might make his entry with dignity, while the travellers were earnestly requested to charge their pieces.

The procession now advanced, consisting of the two brothers, with Mr. Park and his companions, headed by the singing man, who repeated some extempore stanzas on the valour of his countryman, and strictly enjoined his friends to prepare a suitable banquet on his return.

When they reached his habitation, the company

dismounted, and, having discharged their musquets, gave place to the relations, whose emotions were sufficiently descriptive of their joy.

His mother next approached the happy blacksmith, bending over her staff with age and infirmity. The crowd gave way directly, the embrace of friendship was restrained, while maternal love demanded silence and veneration.

Deprived of sight, she supplied the sad defect by feeling carefully the hands and face of her son, whom she fondly encircled in her withered arms, and whose well known voice vibrated, like celestial music, upon her throbbing heart.

Our traveller, in the mean time, was seated at a small distance, unobserved by the affected throng, till the blacksmith, in giving his father a detail of adventures, which he thanked God had terminated happily, repeated the name of Mr. Park, and pointed him out to his attentive auditors.

Every eye was now turned towards the European, whom they seemed to regard as a supernatural being, while they expressed their surprise that he had not sooner been discovered.

The women and children were evidently fearful to approach him, till they had received repeated assurances of his harmless disposition from their townsman; when they began to examine his apparel; but on the slightest motion their former dread returned, and when he attempted to rise they unanimously took to their heels for safety.

From this place Mr. Park proceeded to Kooniakary, and on the morrow of his arrival obtained an audience of Demba Sego Jalla, the monarch of Kasson.

The concourse of people assembled to see the *white man* was so great, that our author found much difficulty in obtaining a passage to the regal hut, in which he found his majesty seated on a mat, according to the custom of the country.

After a respectful salutation from the stranger, and a look of penetrating examination on the part of the king, who was apparently in his sixtieth year, the latter informed our author, that major Houghton had been with him, and received a white horse from his munificence.

He then requested Mr. Park to remain a few days near the capital, as some ideas were entertained of an immediate war.

The present of the traveller was likewise graciously accepted, and a fine bullock given him in return.

A rumour being spread that our adventurer had received some gold dust, Samba Sego, prince of Kasson, with a number of horsemen, came to inquire the particulars, demanding an exact account of the money, affirming that half of it must be paid to his majesty, and intimating a desire for a handsome present to himself.

The person, however, from whom, on Dr. Laidley's account, the money had been procured, compromised the matter with his highness, whom he persuaded to accept of some powder, ball, and other European articles, as a complete discharge of every demand in his father's kingdom.

From the top of a high hill, remarkable for rocky caverns, which afford a shelter to the beasts of prey, our author obtained a more enchanting prospect than any part of Africa had hitherto afforded him.

A fertile and beautiful country, dotted with a variety of towns and villages, spreads its ample dimensions to the eye of the traveller; while the sovereign, rejoicing in the number of his subjects, can call four thousand warriors to his assistance by the sound of his martial drum.

A number of wolves approached the village in which Mr. Park resided, on the 27th of the month, towards night, but were happily discovered by the dogs, which alarmed the natives by their long and dismal howlings.

They accordingly assembled, with proper weapons of defence, at the inclosures of cattle, where, by waving flaming branches of dry grass towards the hills, and uttering repeated shouts, they had the good fortune to disperse the savage intruders, though some of the cattle were slain, and many wounded, before their owners arrived with this manœuvre.

On the 3d of February Mr. Park took leave of his late companion the blacksmith, and proceeded with two guides to the village of Soomoo, at which he spent the night, and in the morning pursued his route by the banks of the Krieko, which descends, with an impetuous current, from the east of Kangee, down the eminence of Tappa, at the foot of which its noise subsides, and it then meanders gently through the charming plains of Kooniakary, till, united with another stream, it terminates in the Senegal, at a little distance from the falls of Felow.

After viewing Kangee, which is a considerable town, our traveller passed through the village of Lac-karago, obtained a glance of the Foolado mountains, and speedily reached the level sands of Kaarta.

Here his company were refreshed, at a watering-place, with a sufficiency of milk and pounded corn, which they received in exchange for a few beads, and in the evening they arrived at Feesurah.

The charges of their host were now so exorbitant, that Mr. Park, incensed at the imposition, absolutely refused to pay them; but the gift of a blanket decided the controversy, and induced the landlord to attend his guests some way on their journey, in quality of conductor and protector.

This man, though a negro Pagan by birth, and still sufficiently addicted to his ancient customs to allow himself the use of strong liquors, was a Mahometan by profession.

When the company had reached the middle of a gloomy forest, he desired them to halt, when he whistled thrice, extremely loud, through a piece of

hollow bamboo, which was suspended from his neck; he then quitted his horse, laid his spear across the path, pronounced a few unintelligible prayers, repeated his whistle, and then assured the travellers, that, as no answer was returned to his magic calls, their journey would be safe and unmolested.

A few days after this transaction, our author, having wandered from his companions to gather some fruit, beheld two armed horsemen riding furiously towards him, when he stopped, in expectation of their design; but no sooner had they gained a view of his face, than the first retreated with precipitation, and the other followed leisurely, concealing his eyes with his hand, and repeating his prayers, in a faltering voice, till they met with the company, who were greatly amused with a description of the terrific creature they had seen, and at whose appearance they affirmed a cold wind descended on them, like a shower from the sky.

By noon they arrived at Kemmoo, the capital of the kingdom, which is seated on an extensive plain. Here the monarch appointed a lodging for the stranger, and promised to grant him an audience in the evening.

In the interim, Mr. Park was much incommoded by the natives, who rushed into his abode, though a person was appointed to defend it, and there continued, in spite of every effort, till their curiosity was fully satisfied.

At the appointed hour, he found Daisy Koorabari, the king of Kaarta, plainly apparelled, but seated on a throne composed of earth, and covered with the skin of a leopard, encompassed by warriors, females, and children.

In the course of conversation, he seriously advised the European to return to Kasson, without attempting to proceed any further; but Mr. Park was positive in his refusal, and humbly solicited a guide, who might lead him to the frontiers.

The discourse was now interrupted by the arrival of a Moorish horseman, whose steed was covered with foam, and who requested an audience.

The sovereign immediately, as a token for strangers to withdraw, took up his sandals, and our author accordingly returned to his lodgings.

His majesty sent him a fine sheep in the evening; and while he was partaking of the royal gift at supper, the natives were summoned to prayers, by the beat of a drum, and the sound of instruments, similar to horns, which are formed of elephants' teeth.

Our traveller, on sending his pistols and holsters to the king, with a renewal of his petition for a guide, was attended the following day by three of his majesty's sons, with five other persons on horseback, who on their departure were followed for some time by near two hundred people.

The same night Mr. Park slept at the village of Marina, where he sustained a considerable loss, in gold, amber, beads, and raiment, and found a complaint to his protectors ineffective.

The next day, observing two negroes seated at a distance from the road, among some thick bushes, the royal party, supposing them to be slaves who had fled from their employers, hastily prepared their pieces, and surrounded the spot, to prevent an escape; but, on their near approach, the strangers, fitting an arrow to each of their bows, and holding others between their teeth, made a sign for the horsemen to stop, who, on demanding their names and business, understood they were inhabitants of Toorda, a village in the neighbourhood, from whence they had come to gather tomberongs, of which they produced two baskets, as the collection of the morning.

These are small yellow berries, of a mealy substance and delicious flavour, beaten from the branches of the lotus, which is common in the African countries, and which was most probably meant by Pliny, as affording sustenance to the Libyan Lotophagi.

They are frequently converted by the natives into a substance resembling gingerbread, by being dried in the sun, pounded in a mortar, and made up with a little water.

The stones are likewise shaken in water, till the meal, which at first remained on them, is dissolved; and thus a palatable liquor is formed, which, with some bruised millet, affords a wholesome breakfast, in the months of February and March, to the people of Ludamar.

They next arrived at Funingtedy, where Mr. Park endeavoured to gain some repose on a bullock's hide; but his slumbers were soon disturbed by the shrieks of female terror, and a general uproar through the town.

Starting from his couch, he inquired the reason of such a confusion, and was informed, the Moorish robbers were at hand, to deprive the townsmen of their cattle.

Ascending the roof of his hut, he beheld *five* armed Moors driving a herd of bullocks to the wells, where they chose sixteen of the finest for their own use, and retreated hastily with the spoil, while *five hundred* inhabitants stood within pistol shot, without attempting to rescue their property.

Four musquets indeed were fired, but without effect, and a youth, by endeavouring to throw his spear, received a mortal wound from the invaders.

He was accordingly conducted back, on horseback, and supported by a number of persons, while his distracted mother preceded him, to her habitation, repeating his excellent qualities, and exclaiming, with energy, "He never told a lie!" while her clasped hands and streaming eyes discovered the inward bitterness of her soul.

The spectators expressed their sorrow for the accident in loud screams, and our author was requested to examine the wound; but when, on finding the lad's leg fractured by a musquet ball, beyond all idea of a

cure, he mentioned amputation as the only chance of saving life, every one regarded his proposal with horror, and deemed him equal to a cannibal, for devising such a barbarous operation.

The sufferer was immediately given up to some old priests, who assured him of an entrance into Paradise, if he would repeat some Arabic sentences, which they whispered in his ears.

The poor boy was so much exhausted with pain and loss of blood, that he exerted himself several times, without success, but at last uttered, with extreme difficulty, "There is but one God, and Mahomet is his prophet," and in a few hours he breathed his last.

Quitting Funingkedy, they passed the village of Simbing, from whence major Houghton sent his last letter, written with a pencil, to Dr. Laidley. Though it is uncertain whether this gallant but ill-fated man was slain by famine, or the weapons of the Mahometan savages; authentic information assures us that he was plundered by the Moors of all his property, and suffered the extremity of hunger for several days; as also that, after his decease, his body was inhumanly thrown out, to perish in the deep solitude of the woods.

About the middle of the day they arrived at Jarra, which is a spacious town, built of stones intermixed with clay, seated at the foot of some rocky hills, in the Moorish kingdom of Ludamar.

The natives, however, occupy but a small part of this place, compared with the negroes of the southern states, who, by paying a considerable tribute, live under the protection of the Moors, in *this* kingdom, to avoid their dreadful incursions in their own. Yet this reliance is very precarious, and insult is often added to the demands of their avaricious landlords.

These latter bear a near resemblance to the West Indian mulattoes in their persons, and are of at reacherous, subtle, and dishonest temper, from which the

inoffensive negroes often suffer the most important losses.

A Gambia Slatee accommodated our author with an apartment in his house, and kindly replenished his exhausted purse ; he also dispatched a messenger to the camp of Benowm, with a present from the European of some cotton apparel, and a solicitation to King Ali for an unmolested passage through his dominions.

In a few days a slave arrived from the monarch, to escort Mr. Park to Goomba, for which he demanded a blue cotton garment, and on the following day they departed.

After a wearisome journey over the sands, they rested at the Moorish watering-place of Compe, and then continued their route to the town of Deena, which, like Jarra, is extensive, and built of the same materials.

The behaviour of the Moors was here both insolent and disgusting ; they assembled round the stranger's lodging, with hissings, shoutings, and other tumultuous noises, thereby to inflame his anger, and then to rob him for his exertion of spirit ; but, finding their plan defeated by his silence, they even spat in his face, and violently seized his property, as the lawful spoil of a Christian by the followers of the prophet.

This audacious action intimidated Mr. Park's attendants so much, that they positively refused to accompany him beyond this town ; and he accordingly proceeded, the next morning, by the light of the moon, solitary and defenceless, in quest of new adventures.

He had not, however, wandered far, when, alarmed by the roaring of some wild beast, he looked round from a gentle acclivity, and beheld his boy, whose fidelity had overcome his fears, running hastily in pursuit of him, and now conjured him to tarry, while he procured him another follower.

On his agreeing to this proposal, the lad immediately returned to the town, from whence he soon brought the interpreter to join his unfortunate master, who now proceeded till the 4th of March, when he reached the noted town of Sampata, at which he obtained a temporary abode beneath the roof of a negro.

An astonishing quantity of locusts were observed in the vicinity of this place, insomuch that the trees were absolutely covered with them. They are said to arrive with the north-east wind, and devour every species of vegetable without distinction.

From hence they rode on to Dalli, where some herds of camels were feeding in the pastures, with their fore legs tied up, after the Moorish fashion.

As our traveller happened to arrive on a festival, the natives were all employed in dancing and rejoicing; but hearing of the *white man*, they hastily forsook their sports and came to his lodging in couples, preceded by their musician.

Their musical instrument is somewhat similar to a flute; but the performer blows over the end, which is partly closed by a thin piece of wood, in an oblique direction, while his fingers are applied to the holes, as the tunes occasionally require.

While dancing around their guest, and playing some charming, plaintive airs, their harmless mirth was suddenly hushed, at midnight, on the 7th of the month, by the unexpected entrance of a Moorish party, who, seizing on our author, commanded him, in the king's name, to attend them peaceably to the camp, where the favourite lady of their sovereign expected him with impatience.

At this place Mr. Park arrived, after a journey of five days, which scarcely bore the vestige of a camp, but merely presented the spectator with a number of dirty, ill-formed, and irregular tents, which occupied a considerable extent, while the people were mixed

in promiscuous groups among their camels, goats, and other cattle.

On our traveller's entrance a general confusion ensued, the buckets were thrown down by the drawers of water, the warriors mounted their steeds, and all descriptions, male and female, came running to behold the wonder.

He was now encircled by the multitude, who, eagerly pressing forwards, scarcely allowed him the power of motion, while some were examining his hat, clothes, and buttons, and others exclaiming, with many threatening gestures, "There is but one God, and Mahomet is his prophet."

A passage was however at last obtained to the royal tent, where the monarch, supported by a cushion of black leather, was employed in cutting some superfluous hairs from his lip, while a female attended with a mirror.

His appearance was that of an Arab advanced in years, an indignant temper was stamped on his countenance, and a long white beard descended to his breast.

While he surveyed our author with the most minute attention, and expressed a considerable surprise at his ignorance of the Arabic tongue, the ladies repeated a variety of questions with amazing volubility, examined his raiment, emptied his pockets, anxiously inspected the colour of his skin, and actually counted his fingers and toes.

Evening devotions were now announced by the priest; but before the assembly was dispersed, a Moorish interpreter informed Mr. Park, that his majesty had sent for some provision, on his account; when a wild hog was immediately brought in by some boys, who fastened it to the strings of the tent, and the sovereign, by signs, directed his visitor to kill and prepare it for his own repast.

As this proposal was politely refused by the stranger, the animal was directly liberated, in order to

run upon him, the natives supposing these creatures entertain a mortal aversion to Christians; but, to their great surprise, he attacked the spectators without discrimination, and finally sought a refuge beneath the Mahometan throne.

The European was now delivered into the hands of Ali's chief servant, to whose residence he was conducted, though neither permitted to enter the tent, nor to defile any of its appurtenances by his touch.

A mat was thrown on the sand for his bed, and some boiled corn, salt and water, produced in a wooden bowl, for his refreshment.

Early the next morning he was visited by the king, who said he had appointed a hut for his future abode, in which he might be defended from the sun.

To this place he was accordingly removed, which found to be a small square building, composed of corn stalks strengthened by stakes, and covered with a level roof of the same nature: here also the wild hog was confined, which we have already described, most probably by Ali's command, which, by repeated aggravations from the surrounding boys, became quite furious and extremely troublesome.

The Moors were likewise a severe plague to our traveller in his new dwelling, by obliging him to dress and undress repeatedly before them, through the greatest part of the day.

They also maintained a strict watch over him at night, frequently entering his hut, with a flaming wisp of grass, to discover if he was still awake; one of them, in particular, crawled silently in, perhaps on a dishonest errand, without a light; but on Mr. Park's rising at his approach, he fell over the negro boy, with his face upon the hog; the disturbed animal revenged itself on his enemy's arm, and the camp immediately resounded with the screams of the intruder.

His majesty, supposing the white man had escaped, now galloped to the hut on a white steed; but, hear-

ing the cause of the alarm, retired directly, and left his prisoner undisturbed till morning, when he experienced afresh the most savage insults from the populace, which, however, he prudently suffered with a composed countenance and equal temper.

To prevent his captive from eating the bread of idleness, Ali commanded our author to attend the young prince of Ludamar in quality of barber, and dispatched the boy to the woods in quest of grass for his horses.

On Mr. Park's attending the regal summons, he was desired to sit down and shave the head of his highness, with a razor, only three inches long, which was delivered to him for that purpose; but happening to make a small incision with this awkward instrument, the monarch sternly ordered him to desist, and quit the presence.

He was now completely plundered of his little all: his amber, gold, and watch, were rapaciously seized; but his compass excited both curiosity and superstition, insomuch that the king himself vouchsafed to inquire why the little piece of iron, meaning the needle, was constantly directed towards the Great Desert.

Though this question rather perplexed our adventurer, he soon replied that it pointed to the residence of his mother, who lived at a great distance beyond that sandy tract, and therefore served to direct him to her from any part of the world; but that, on her decease, its effect would change, and the same small iron would point to the place of her interment.

This solution increased the surprise of the sovereign, who, after turning it round several times, was convinced that it really pointed to some particular spot, and therefore returned it to the European, acknowledging himself unwilling to retain so dangerous a piece of magic beneath his roof.

At the expiration of another week, Mr. Park was informed that a council had been assembled upon

his account ; but the nature of its decision was repeated after various ways, some affirming he was sentenced to die, and others that he was only to suffer the amputation of his right hand ; while the prince, who was but nine years old, assured him that his father was persuaded to deprive him of his eyes, but remained irresolute till the queen Fatima had seen his curious prisoner.

In consequence of this intelligence, our author waited on his majesty the next morning, humbly petitioning that he might return to Jarra ; but this request was unsuccessful.

The increasing anxiety of his mind, and the extreme difficulties which he had hitherto borne with silent resignation, now threw him into a violent fever ; when, conscious of his danger, he wrapped his cloak round his body, to promote, if possible, a gentle perspiration, and then endeavoured to compose himself to sleep.

The Moors, however, with their customary insolence, rushed into his little dwelling, and forcibly deprived him of this covering, though by various signs he convinced them that he was really ill, and pathetically implored their permission for a short repose.

A refusal, so barbarous as that which attended this poor request, naturally irritated his harassed spirit, and, leaving his hat, he wandered a short distance, where he threw his insulted frame beneath the shade of some spreading trees : but even here their cruelty pursued him ; for one of Ali's sons, with a party of horsemen, immediately followed, and commanded him to return with them to the camp.

His supplications for a little rest were renewed without effect ; and after much abusive language, one of the Moors snapped a pistol twice, as he held it towards the dejected invalid who at length, arose to obey his brutal disturbers.

On their arrival at the royal tent, the monarch was evidently much displeased, and after repeatedly open-

ing and closing the pan of his pistol, fresh primed it, and addressed Mr. Park, in the Arabic tongue, which was thus interpreted :

“ You are guilty of contriving an escape ; and if, for the future, you ever presume to quit the limits of the camp, you will be liable to the punishment of death from any person who happens to discover you.”

The horizon proving extremely thick towards the afternoon, a sand wind was predicted by the Moors, which accordingly rose the next morning, and continued, almost without intermission, for the space of two days, during which, though its *force* was not very considerable, it raised a sufficient quantity of sand to obscure the light of heaven, and rolled on in a regular line from east to west.

As the kouskous is always prepared in the open air, it was now plentifully mixed with the sand, while the cooks were abundantly sprinkled by the same unwelcome shower : their faces were however defended by a cloth bandage, and they regular maintained such a position as might prevent any misfortune to their sight.

An idea, it seems, arose among the Moors, soon after this remarkable occurrence, whether the rites of the Christian religion were agreeable to those promulgated by the Mussulmen ; and, singular as it may appear, a certain number of Moorish ladies were to determine the matter.

Mr. Park, unaccustomed to such impertinent curiosity, knew not how to act, but, at length, determined, on terms most flattering to their vanity, to leave the decision to any one they thought proper to depute ; this met their wishes, and the result proved satisfactory to all. A plentiful supper of milk and meal concluded this business, and Mr. Park, for that night, enjoyed a tranquillity of mind he had not experienced for many previous.

Three days had now elapsed, when a slave was sent

to our traveller," commanding him to prepare for an excursion with the monarch, who intended to gratify his women by a sight of the stranger.

This message was scarcely delivered, when his majesty rode up to the hut, with several of his followers; but a short delay arose on account of Mr. Park's dress, which appeared, in the judgment of the Moors, very improper to be worn on such a visit. The difficulty was however removed, at last, and for this time every thing amicably settled.

At the tent of the ladies, who were all exceeding corpulent, he was refreshed with some milk and water, while they examined his hair and skin with the most minute attention, yet seemed to shudder at his strange complexion, which they doubtless reckoned far inferior to their own.

The Moors, who are in general excellent equestrians, displayed a variety of feats, in the course of this excursion, while they repeatedly galloped round our author, with evident marks of a high diversion, and were apparently ambitious to check their steeds by a sudden jerk in the midst of a full career. Timidity is scarcely known to these people, whose saddles are remarkably secure, and their roads, which are soft and sandy, almost preclude the possibility of any injury from a fall.

They are very fond of their horses, which they regularly feed thrice, at the least, every day, and likewise refresh them with a considerable quantity of sweet milk in the evening.

His majesty always appears in public on a beautiful white horse, with its tail dyed red, unless summoned to his devotions, which he attends on foot.

A child having expired in the camp, the melancholy tent was instantly filled with the dismal howl appointed for such occasions, and performed by its relatives and their female acquaintance.

At dusk the corpse was committed to the grave,

and a shrub planted thereon, which no stranger's fingers must defile.

Three tents were blown down, and our traveller's hut materially damaged, on the 7th of April, by a whirlwind, which passed through the camp with surprising violence, while the heat of the air was nearly suffocating, and the feet of the natives were scorched by the sand.

The third evening subsequent to this event, a marriage was announced by a large drum, called the *Tabala*, when a great concourse of people was speedily gathered together; but, as our author perceived no other amusement in agitation than what resulted from the noise of the drum, accompanied by a shrill chorus of unmusical voices, he withdrew in silence to his hut, and resigned his faculties to the influence of sleep: but he was soon disturbed, in the commencement of his repose, by an old woman, bearing a wooden bowl, who came to bring him a *bridal present*; and ere he was perfectly awakened, his face was plentifully bedewed with the contents of the vessel, which the good matron had, to his utter astonishment, thrown thereon.

As he found this unexpected shower similar in its nature to that which descends, as a holy benediction, from a Hottentot priest on the heads of united lovers, he naturally regarded it as a merry frolic at his expense; but the messenger convinced him of his error, by assuring him that it was really a *personal* favour, from the new married lady, and would have been received by a Moor as the *most precious* mark of her esteem.

On this explanation, our traveller wiped his *bo-noured* face, and politely returned the expected acknowledgments, while the songs of the women and the sound of the *tabala* continued till the morning.

About ten o'clock, a number of females, supporting the tent of their married friend, attended her in a grand procession from the abode of her mother, to

the spot appointed for her future residence, which they approached with festal songs, and on which they pitched the tent ; while the bridegroom, who followed with his companions, tied a bullock to the strings of his new dwelling, and then closed the ceremony by a liberal distribution of beef to the spectators.

His majesty having left Benown, with only a few attendants, on the 16th of the month, Mr. Park was either forgotten, or wilfully neglected, for two successive days, at the expiration of which this cruel deprivation of sustenance affected his sight, convulsed his respiration, and diffused a deadly languor through his body.

In a short time the camp was ordered to follow its sovereign, and accordingly the Moors departed by break of day ; when the baggage was carried by their bullocks, and the concubines of the king were conveyed by camels, and sheltered from the sun by a suitable canopy, till the 3d of May, when they arrived safely at the fresh encampment, in the vicinity of Bubaker, which is a town chiefly inhabited by the negroes.

Here Mr. Park presented himself before the throne of Ali, requesting permission to pay his humble respects to the queen.

This proposal was acceptable ; for the king immediately honoured his guest with a pressure of the hand, after which he presented him to Fatima, as the Christian stranger of whom she had heard so much related.

Her majesty, who was extremely corpulent, with long black hair, and, like her royal consort, of an Arab appearance, seemed rather disconcerted at the idea of a Christian, here termed a Nazarene, standing so near her ; but after a little conversation had passed between them, she recovered her affability, and condescended to regale him with a bowl of milk.

Water was here exceeding scarce, and its want se-

verely felt by our unfortunate adventurer, whose boy was repeatedly beaten from the wells, by the unfeeling Moors, when attempting to fill a skin, which Ali himself had given for the purpose.

Having humbly solicited a little water, one evening, through all the camp, without success, Mr. Park wandered to the watering-place, which was about half a mile distant from his habitation, at which he arrived when several persons were employed in drawing water for their respective purposes; he accordingly begged leave to quench his thirst, but was cruelly abused, and driven away with contempt.

Thirsty and distressed, he passed on to a second well, where he only found two boys with an old man: he repeated his entreaty to the latter, who directly drew up the bucket, and was presenting it to the suppliant, when, recollecting he was a Christian, and might therefore defile his vessel, he threw the water disdainfully into a trough at which some cows were drinking, and told him to make use of that; which our author accordingly did, with a grateful heart and unspeakable satisfaction.

As our readers may by this time justly expect a description of the place and people to which we have conducted them, we here observe, that Ludamar has for its boundary on the north the great desert of Zahara, which is an amazing tract of sand, utterly destitute of inhabitants, except where it is rarely spotted with sufficient pasture to supply the flocks of a few poor itinerant Arabs.

Indeed these steril regions are scarcely inhabited by wild animals. The ostrich and antelope are sometimes found; but their amazing swiftness enables them to reach the distant springs with facility, which lie towards the border of the Desert, where lions, wild boars, panthers, and elephants, are often discovered.

The camel is the only domestic animal which is able to cross this immense space with the caravans;

as nature has supplied him with a stomach, of such a formation, as will retain a supply of water for ten or a dozen days, while, with his upper lip, he clears the thorny shrub of its most trifling verdure, and his broad yielding foot is admirably suited to a sandy soil.

The Moors are separated into various select tribes; the most powerful of which reside on the northern banks of the Senegal, and bear the names of Trasart and Il Braken.

Every tribe submits the direction of its public concerns to a king, or chief, who reigns absolutely over his own horde, without an idea of allegiance to any other power.

Their employments, when undisturbed by hostilities, are chiefly pastoral, and their sustenance chiefly derived from their cattle, which they either devour as gluttons, or from which they totally abstain, as their own caprice directs them.

Agriculture is but little practised, and the materials for manufacture are but thinly produced. The women, however, spin a sort of thread from goat's hair, which is afterwards wove into a strong cloth for the covering of the tents.

Their knives and spears are formed of the native iron, but all their other weapons are purchased from Europeans.

Their hides are likewise prepared for the purposes of saddles, bridles, and pouches.

We have already observed, that they are strict disciples of Mahomet, to whom, at Benowm, they address their devotions in an inclosure composed of mats, which supplies the want of a mosque.

The priest is likewise the pedagogue of the town, whose pupils are regularly assembled, at the close of day, before his tent, and instructed in some detached parts of the Koran, by the light of a large fire. When these lessons have been read and transcribed, and a few prayers committed to memory, the scholar's education is deemed complete; but as women are

merely regarded in the light of submissive vassals to their domineering masters, the tuition of their girls is wholly neglected.

Their idea of feminine loveliness is very singular, for, in their estimation, the *most corpulent* is the greatest beauty; hence our author observes, that one of their *ponderous charmers* is a sufficient load for a camel.

From this surprising taste in the men the girls derive their unwieldy bulk, being compelled by their mothers to swallow a vast quantity of kouskous every morning, which is instantly followed by a similar portion of camel's milk.

A strict observance of this custom soon renders the young ladies acceptable to the gallants, whose admiration is increased with the increasing obesity of their nymphs.

The female dress is a piece of cotton, which descends from the middle, around which it is wrapped, in manner of a petticoat, to their heels; to this are fastened two square pieces of the same manufacture, which are united over the shoulders, while the head is encircled with a plain bandage, which is occasionally widened, to defend their features from the sun. A veil is sometimes worn, when they go out to take the air, which conceals their persons entirely from the rude gaze of the populace.

Their employments are as various as their ranks in life, and generally regulated thereby.

Her majesty, and ladies of the first degree, devote their hours to the conversation of visitors, a repetition of their prayers, and the contemplation of their own charms; while their inferiors maintain a petty despotism over their slaves, and are equally as vain and voluble as their betters.

The men commonly wear a white cotton turban, and those who have *long* beards are very ambitious of displaying them, as the hair of these people is generally *short* and always black.

The only diseases found among them were the dysentery and an intermitting fever, for each of which their old matrons often prescribe a remedy. Many of the Moors, in other parts, are subject to the small pox, and the negroes who reside near the Gambia are acquainted with inoculation.

They are all unanimous in praise of their ruler, who is distinguished from his subjects by the fineness of his apparel, which is either blue cotton, or white linen and muslin, and by the dimensions of his tent; but, in the ordinary occurrences of life, he frequently stoops so low beneath his rank, as to eat and sleep with his own camel-driver.

Though the strength of Ludamar is accounted to consist in cavalry, the monarch is unable to raise more than two thousand horsemen, each of whom is obliged to furnish the state with a horse and his own accoutrements, comprising a double-barrelled gun, a large sabre, a powder-horn slung across his shoulders, and a leather bag to contain his balls, for which he receives no reward but in the plunder of his enemies.

A tax, which is levied upon the negro inhabitants, produces in gold dust, cloth, and corn, a sufficiency to defray the expenses of the government.

Imposts are also affixed to various watering-places, and affect every article which passes through his majesty's dominions; yet the sovereign nevertheless receives, without repugnance, any addition to his revenue from the unjust spoil of individuals.

Having obtained permission to return to Jarra, our author took leave of the sovereign and Fatima, and on the 26th of May quitted the camp with his interpreter, his boy, and a number of Moorish horsemen; but while the horses were preparing on the morning of the 28th, a chief slave of the king seized on the faithful lad, who had resolutely followed his master's steps, and informed him that he must henceforth devote his services to Ali, whose servant he was now become; and then, observing Mr. Park's surprise,

told him the business was at length concluded, and that he with the old fool (meaning the interpreter) might set forward on his journey; but that his boy and all the baggage must be immediately returned to Bubaker.

Our traveller directly hastened to the monarch with a remonstrance; but he was roughly advised to mount his horse instantaneously, lest he himself should be detained in captivity.

The unfortunate youth was much affected at this cruel separation, and Mr. Park's eyes were suffused with the drops of pity, when he saw him led away by the slaves of an unfeeling despot.

On the 1st of June our author entered Jarra, which was much alarmed, shortly after his arrival, by the intelligence of a considerable force, which Daisy, the sovereign of Kaarta, was conducting thither with hostile intentions; nor were the chiefs of the town delivered from their apprehensions, when a number of persons returned from fighting the invader, as their relation of his expedition only served to infuse new terror into the breasts of their auditors.

On the 26th the surrender of Simbiry was announced, when near half the people, in the agonies of despair, began packing up their moveables in the night, and at break of day departed towards Bambarra, in the most piteous manner; while the tears of the females and children, the dejected features of the men, and the frequent looks of regret, which *all* cast back on their native place, strongly depicted the anguish of their minds.

The town itself presented a more affecting spectacle the following morning; for, when news arrived of Daisy's near approach, the terror of the men exceeded the powers of description, and the screams of the women, with their offspring, were most piercing and alarming.

Mr. Park then quitted the melancholy scene; and after viewing the country from the summit of a hill,

he was proceeding pensively along the road, when he was overtaken by a Moorish party, who commanded him to return immediately to Ali.

As he did not hesitate to obey them, one of the horsemen desired a view of his bundle, which he untied among some thick bushes, but found nothing worthy of his acceptance but a cloak, which he immediately appropriated to his own use.

Mr. Park humbly entreated them to return it ; but some of the party struck his horse on the head, and threatened to shoot him if he attempted to follow them ; after which they hastily decamped with their plunder, and left him to pursue his intended route at his leisure.

He accordingly directed his course through the wilderness, by his compass, to reach the kingdom of Bambarra ; but his journey was soon impeded by the heat of the sun, which was so intense, that it overpowered him with thirst and faintness.

In this situation he ascended to the top of a tree, hoping from thence to discover some human abode ; but, to his utter disappointment, he beheld nothing but hillocks of sand and thick underwood, all around him, on every side.

He then proceeded till he found a considerable herd of goats, when his hopes were revived by the appearance of two young Moors, who, after much persuasion, ventured to approach him ; but they only showed him empty water-skins, and assured him they had not yet discovered any water in the woods.

Nearly dying with thirst, and distressed by this intelligence, our author rode on pretty fast, still hoping to find a watering-place ; but his mouth and throat were now so severely parched, that he fully expected to expire with the insufferable pain, which he vainly endeavoured to alleviate by chewing the leaves of various shrubs.

A second time he climbed a tree, which standing on an eminence, he supposed might prove more

fortunate than the first; but here also he cast his aching eyes around, without perceiving a single trace of what he sought with such anxiety.

On his quitting the tree, he observed his horse devouring the brushwood with great avidity, when, pitying the animal, which, with himself, was exposed to such misery, he took off the bridle, and left him to roam at his pleasure; but during this employ he was seized with such a violent sickness, as he imagined the sure prelude to a speedy dissolution.

He recovered, however, by degrees, and made another effort to proceed slowly after his steed, when his heart was suddenly revived by the appearance of lightning in the east, which, in these parts, is an unfailing token of rain, and which was soon fulfilled, for a copious shower descended immediately on the earth, which the parched and weary traveller joyfully received, by spreading out his clothes, and afterwards assuaged his anguish by sucking the charming moisture from them.

Thus providentially refreshed, he continued his journey till some croaking frogs announced his approach to some water, at which, though stagnant and muddy, he again cooled his burning palate, and from thence rode forwards to the village of Shrilla, which is inhabited by Foulahs.

Observing an old woman seated in one of the huts, employed in spinning, he petitioned her, by signs, for some food, and endeavoured to convince her that he was extremely hungry.

The benevolent creature immediately quitted her distaff, and, addressing him in Arabic, welcomed him to her little habitation, where he was seated on the floor, and instantly provided with a dish of kous-kous. His horse was also refreshed by a feed of corn; and the European expressed his gratitude by the gift of a pocket handkerchief, in return for these civilities.

Whilst the horse was enjoying his provender, and our traveller's heart was joyfully elevated in silent praise to Him who had so bounteously spread a table for him in the wilderness, one of the natives approached his good hostess with a whisper, which evidently excited her astonishment, and from which the stranger found that they wished to seize and carry him to Ali.

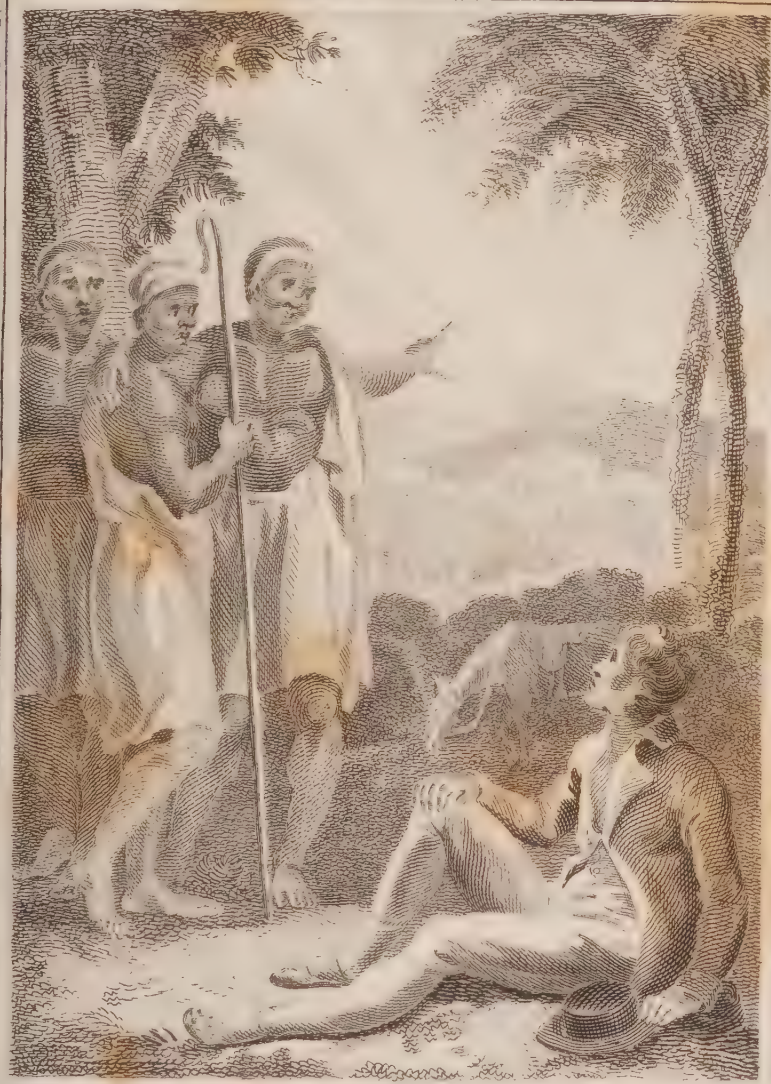
He therefore prudently tied up his corn, and, driving his animal before him, pursued his journey in a northerly direction, attended for some time by a vast concourse of people.

After proceeding about two miles, he found it absolutely necessary to take some repose; and accordingly striking into a thicket, he formed a couch of some twigs, and reclined his weary head upon his saddle, which served for a pillow. In this place he slept soundly till sun-rise the next morning, when three Foulahs awakened him, and, pointing to the sun, reminded him that it was time to offer up his prayers.

Though inattentive to this admonition, he arose somewhat refreshed, and, after saddling his horse, proceeded through the woods, in which he observed a variety of ostriches, wild hogs, and antelopes, till he met with some Foulah shepherds in the vicinity of a watering-place.

By these persons he was courteously invited to enter a tent, which was so low, that it scarcely admitted a person to sit in an erect position, and Mr. Park was obliged to creep into it upon his hands and knees.

Here he found a woman with three children, who surrounded a dish of boiled corn and some dates, which the owner of this lowly dwelling first tasted, and then presented to the stranger; but, on Mr. Park's beginning to eat, the children gazed at him with astonishment, and on the shepherd's exclaiming *A Nazarene!* they all began to cry, and instantly



*Natives of the Foulah Country informing
W.^r Park, it was time to rise.*

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followed their mother, who crept with caution towards the door, and then ran from the tent with amazing rapidity ; so completely dismayed were these poor creatures at the name of a Christian.

Our author however obtained some corn for his horse in exchange for a little brass, and on the 5th of July arrived at the negro town of Warvra.

This is a small place, encompassed with high walls, and occupied by Foulahs and Mandingoes, who are under tribute to the king of Bambarra, and whose chief employ is the cultivation of corn, which they barter with the Moors for salt.

Our traveller here attempted to recruit his exhausted powers by sleep, but was soon disturbed by the people who flocked to see him, and who entreated him to inquire of Mansong, their sovereign, respecting their children, of whom he had cruelly deprived them.

The next morning he went to Dingyee, at which his landlord petitioned him for a lock of his hair, to make a saphie, which he said would convey to its possessor all the knowledge of a white man.

This request was immediately complied with ; but Mr. Park, finding his head pretty closely cropped by the insatiate thirst of his host for learning, was obliged to put on his hat, for which he apologized, by observing, that he must reserve some part of this valuable merchandise for another occasion.

He now proceeded to Wassiboo, where, from an extensive cultivation, the land is abundantly fertile, and in which, to use the expression of the natives, "Hunger is unknown." The labours of the field are equally performed by the men and women ; and their only instrument of husbandry is a large paddle.

After satisfying his curiosity at this place, our author arrived at Satilé, the gates of which were closed against him by the inhabitants, who were alarmed at the appearance of the horsemen who accompanied

him; but a tornado happening to rise, a parley was requested, and the strangers were afterwards admitted.

Having remained here a short time, he went forwards to the town of Moorja, which is large in itself, and remarkable for its commerce, which consists in the exchange of corn and cloth with the Moors, for salt, which they bring hither in great quantities.

Its inhabitants are blessed with an abundance of grain, and are noted for their liberality to strangers.

On Mr. Park's arrival at Datliboo, which was his next stage, a violent tornado arose, which dismantled his lodging of its roof, deluged the floor, extinguished the fire, and reduced him to the necessity of passing a restless night upon some bundles of fuel, which happened to lie above the surface of the water.

Removing from hence, he was met by a caravan, comprising about seventy slaves, male and female, who were fastened together by twisted thongs, into separate parties, of seven persons, with a guard attending each division. They were coming from Sego, and many of the men were ill conditioned.

Riding over some swampy ground in the vicinity of Sego, our traveller at length discerned the majestic and long-sought-for Niger, flowing gently towards the east, glittering with the beams of the morning sun, and apparently as broad as the Thames at Westminster.

Having reached its bank, and assuaged his thirst with its water, he presented his pious thanks to the glorious Ruler of the Creation, who had thus deigned to crown his exertions with success: after which he contemplated the phenomenon of the river's course, without surprise, as he had repeatedly received the strongest assurances that it usually glided towards the rising sun.

Sego, the capital of Bambarra, includes four separate towns, two of which are seated on the southern bank of the river, and bear the names of Sego See

Korro and Sego Soo Korro; and two are built on the opposite side, which are Sego Korro and Sego Boo, and each of these is surrounded by a high mud wall.

The houses are generally square, with flat roofs, some of them two stories high, built of clay, and occasionally white-washed. Mosques are also frequent in every division of the capital. Its streets are tolerably broad, considering that wheel carriages are unknown, and its population estimated at thirty thousand inhabitants.

Sego See Korro is the residence of the monarch, who derives a considerable part of his revenue from passengers crossing the Niger, under the care of his slaves, who convey them over in a sort of canoe, formed of two large trees, hollowed out and united at the end, by which uncommon junction they appear of a disproportionable length; they are also destitute of decks and masts, but are sufficiently roomy to contain four horses and several people with ease.

While our traveller stood waiting on the bank, for an accommodation in one of these vessels, the king was informed that a white man intended to visit him; but, on this intelligence, a messenger was dispatched to tell the stranger that his majesty could not possibly admit him to his presence, till he understood the cause of his arrival, and also to warn him not to cross the river without the royal permission.

This message was accordingly delivered by one of the chief natives, who advised Mr. Park to seek a lodging in an adjacent village, and promised to give him some requisite instructions in the morning.

Our author immediately complied with this counsel; but on his entering the village, he had the mortification to find every door indiscriminately closed against him.

He was therefore obliged to remain all the day without food, beneath the shade of a tree, till about

sun-set, when, as he was turning his horse loose to graze, and expected to pass the night in this lonely situation, a woman stopped to gaze at him, as she returned from her employment in the field ; and observing his dejected looks, inquired from what cause they proceeded ; which on hearing explained, she immediately took up his saddle and bridle, and desired him to follow her to her residence ; where, after lighting a lamp, she presented him with some broiled fish, spread a mat for him to lie upon, and gave him permission to continue beneath her roof till morning.

Having performed this beneficent action, she summoned her female companions to their spinning, which occupied the chief part of the night, while their labour was beguiled by a variety of songs ; one of which was observed by our author to be an extempore effusion, occasioned by his own adventure. The air was remarkably sweet and plaintive, and the words were literally the following :

“ The winds roared, and the rain fell. The poor white man, faint and weary, came and sat under our tree. He has no mother to bring him milk ; no wife to grind his corn. Chorus—Let us pity the white man, no mother has he.”

To which we subjoin the following imitation, from the pen of the Rev. Thomas Smith :

Loud roar'd the wind, while sheets of rain
Descending, delug'd all the plain,
Nor left the mountains free :
When faint and wearied with the storm,
The white man threw his languid form
Beneath our spreading tree.

Unhappy man ! how hard his lot,
Far from his friends, perchance forgot,
As thus he sits forlorn !
He boasts no mother to prepare
The fresh drawn milk, with tender care ;
No wife to grind his corn.

CHORUS.

With glad consent let ev'ry breast
Relieve and pity the distrest ;
To him let each a parent be,
For parent none, alas ! has he.

Grateful for the kindness he had received, Mr. Park, on quitting his bed, made a small acknowledgment to his benevolent hostess, and remained all day at the village, to oblige the natives, who anxiously crowded to survey him.

A messenger now arrived from the sovereign, to inquire whether any present was prepared for him ; which being answered in the negative, a second person was dispatched from the court, who informed our author that it was his majesty's desire he should immediately depart from Sego ; but anxious to relieve a white man in distress, he had graciously sent him five thousand kowries*, and had given orders that he should be safely conducted to Sansanding.

Submissive to the royal order, our author departed ; and on the 24th of July passed the town of Kabba, which is very spacious, and seated in the bosom of a fertile and beautiful country.

The inhabitants were busied in gathering the fruit of the shea trees, which are similar to American oaks, and naturally abound in the country. It is from these the vegetable butter is prepared, by boiling the kernel, which is surrounded by a sweet pulp and green rind, in water, after it has been properly dried in the sun ; and the butter, thus obtained, is firmer, whiter, and of a more delicious flavour than any which is made after the European method ; with this advantage also, that it will keep a twelvemonth without salt.

* Kowries are little shells, which pass currently in Bambarra ; 250 of them are equal in value to an English shilling.

On this account the shea tree is greatly esteemed, and is always spared, when every other is cut-away, to clear the land for cultivation.

Pursuing his route till evening, Mr. Park arrived at Sansanding, a town of considerable extent, much frequented by the Moors, who come from Beero and the Mediterranean with salt, coral, and beads, to exchange for gold dust and cotton cloth, and is supposed to contain near ten thousand inhabitants.

Immediately on his arrival, he was encompassed by several hundred persons, with whose language he was totally unacquainted. But the majority of these, who were negroes, were driven away by a Moorish party, who, after questioning him upon his religion, conducted him to an elevated seat, near the entrance of a mosque, from whence he might be plainly seen by the populace, and on which he was compelled to remain till sun-set.

He was then removed to a little compact hut, furnished with a small court in its front, the door of which was closed upon his entrance ; but this precaution was rendered fruitless by the curiosity of the people, who instantly scaled the wall and crowded in to see the white man eat eggs, and to witness his evening devotions.

The first desire our traveller promised to gratify, if they would bring him some to eat, but assured them he must be excused from a *public* address to his Creator.

As the natives suppose that Europeans chiefly subsist on raw eggs, he was immediately provided with seven ; but, after convincing his landlord that he should prefer them when boiled, a sheep was killed and prepared for supper.

When the Moors had retired, about midnight, to their respective habitations, Mr. Park was earnestly entreated by his host to write a *saphie*, which he said must be more efficacious from the hand of a white man, than if written by his own countrymen.

This request was readily granted, and our author, by writing the *Lord's Prayer* on a thin board, with a reed dipped in charcoal and gum water, furnished him with one that was *really* invaluable.

The next morning he quitted Sansanding, and in three days reached the town of Nyamee, which is chiefly occupied by Foulahs, who have migrated from the kingdom of Masina.

Here Mr. Park was refused a reception by the governor, who, however, permitted a guide to attend him on horseback through the woods, as far as Modiboo.

In the course of their journey this conductor repeatedly stopped to look beneath the bushes, which our author found was occasioned by the extreme danger to which travellers are exposed by the number of lions with which the woods are infested.

At this instant Mr. Park's horse started suddenly, and he beheld, at a small distance, a large creature, apparently of the camelopard kind. Its neck and fore legs were remarkably long; its tail descended to the ham joint, with a tuft of hair at the end. Its colour was similar to that of a mouse, and its head furnished with a pair of short, black horns, inclining backwards.

On the approach of our adventurer, it trotted away very slowly, frequently turning its head, to observe whether it was pursued.

Soon afterwards, as they were riding over an extensive plain, lightly sprinkled with bushes, the guide exclaimed, "A very large lion!" and warned our author to push forward as fast as possible; but his horse was too much fatigued to proceed any faster, and he was accordingly compelled to continue the same pace as he passed the very bush, wherein the monster was discerned by the conductor, and which was now seen by Mr. Park, reclining its head upon its fore paws. The passengers were, however, providentially preserved from this devouring beast,

which was red, and of an extraordinary size, and safely arrived, by sun-set, at Modiboo.

This delightful village is most enchantingly situated on the banks of the Niger, of which it commands a very extensive view, both east and west. Its natives are plentifully supplied with fish, which they take in cotton nets, of their own manufacture; but are rather annoyed by crocodiles, which are often found in the river. The head of one was seen by Mr. Park, lying upon the roof of a house, which stood in a marsh near the village. Yet these are nothing, in comparison of the surprising swarms of musketoos, which issue perpetually from the creeks and swampy places, till the inhabitants are tormented almost beyond endurance.

On this account, our author passed a miserable night, unable either to close his eyes, or to continue on his bed; but was compelled to rise, and to walk to and fro, occasionally fanning himself with his hat; yet, notwithstanding all his endeavours, his arms and legs were so severely stung, that he apprehended a fever would certainly ensue.

His sick and harassed appearance, in the morning, determined his landlord to hurry him away, who accordingly ordered a servant to conduct him to Kea; and our traveller departed immediately; but unfortunately his horse was totally incapable of pursuing the journey, and fell, in passing over some rough clay, beneath his rider, wholly exhausted, and unable to rise.

Such being the case, Mr. Park disburdened him of his saddle and bridle, and, after placing some grass before him, relinquished him to chance, and accompanied his guide, on foot, to the village of Kea, which is chiefly noted for its fishery.

Here he obtained a passage, in a canoe, for about a mile down the river, when he was desired by the fisherman to land; who, on his compliance, fastened the vessel to a stake, threw off his clothes, and dived

into the water, beneath which he remained a considerable time, and then appeared at the stern of the canoe, demanding a rope, with which he again descended, and afterwards reembarked; when, with the assistance of a young lad, he drew up a large basket, containing two very fine fishes, which he immediately deposited in the grass, on the adjoining bank.

On the 29th of July our author visited Moorzan, which is a fishing-town, built on the northern side of the river; and from thence crossed over to Silla, a spacious town, where he continued beneath the shade of a tree, and encircled by hundreds of spectators, till night began to wrap the landscape in her sable veil.

At this place, he tells us, he made a solemn pause; and after seriously revolving in his mind the extreme perils which must, in all probability, attend a perseverance in his first design, he at last resolved to go no further.

Having fixed this determination, he devoted his time to the laudable purpose of making such inquiries as might give, at least in some degree, a satisfaction to his countrymen, and himself in particular. The answers received on these important subjects, we thus lay connectedly before the reader.

About two days journey to the east of Silla, the town of Jenné is seated on a little island, and is the most considerable in its population of any place in the kingdom of Bambarra.

At an equal distance beyond this, the Niger widens into the dark lake, the extent of which, from east to west, is such, that canoes lose sight of land for a whole day, in passing over it.

From hence the water glides in a variety of streams, which compose two large branches; one of them flowing towards the north-east, and the other to the east; but they are both united at Kabra, which

lies at a small distance southward of Tombuctoo, to which it pertains, as the port of the city.

Eleven days journey from Kabra, the river winds to the southward of Houssa, but of its further progress the natives could give no reasonable account.

The kingdom of Masina, inhabited by Foulahs, is situated on the northern bank of the Niger. To the north-east of Masina (the great object of European inquiry) the famous Tombuctoo rears its head.

It is reputed to be very extensive, governed by Abu Abraham, a Mahometan prince, whose great officers are Moors, and whose subjects, in general, are either Moors, or converts to the doctrines of their prophet.

The sovereign is immensely opulent; his ladies arrayed in the richest silks, and his officers of state maintained in sumptuous elegance, while the tax upon merchandise, which is collected at the gates, is equivalent to all the expenses of his government.

Houssa is also a city of great importance to the Moorish merchants, and is accounted more spacious and populous than Tombuctoo.

The kingdom of Jinbala, though small, is abundantly fertile; and its inhabitants, who are negroes, rich and happy.

To the southward of this, the kingdom of Gotto spreads its more ample dimensions, which on the west is joined by the kingdom of Baedoo, and on the west of Baedoo is Maniana; the natives of which are described as ferocious in their dispositions, and are even reputed cannibals.

Quitting Silla, Mr. Park returned to Kea, on the 30th of July, at which he was accommodated with a covering for the night, by the humanity of a negro, who compassionated his sick and ragged appearance.

From hence he was attended by a guide, on his way to Modiboo, who, on approaching a quantity of jars, which stood on the brink of the Niger, threw a

large handful of grass upon them, desiring his companion to follow his example; as he said, these jars were the property of some invisible being, to whom every passenger devoted some grass, or a branch of a tree, as a token of respect, and to defend the earthen vessels from the inclemency of the weather; and added, that such a practice had been observed for several years, in which space of time no mortal had presumed to claim them.

Thus engaged in discourse, the travellers pursued their journey till they were suddenly startled by the print of a lion's foot, which appeared quite fresh in the mud, near the river.

The conductor now insisted on Mr. Park's walking first; which being refused, he threw down Mr. Park's saddle, which he had hitherto carried, and immediately left him; but on that gentleman's throwing it into the stream, he speedily returned, waded into the water, and recovered the prize, with which he decamped.

Our traveller now continued his route, till about four in the afternoon, in which he observed every possible precaution, with respect to the dreaded savage; and which he happily escaped, by arriving at Modiboo, where he soon recovered his saddle, by meeting with the negro, who had conveyed it thither in a canoe.

As he stood remonstrating with this man upon the absurdity of his conduct, a horse neighed, when his guide asked, if he knew who was addressing him; and then convinced him this was the same horse which he lately left in so pitiable a condition.

After passing through some insignificant places, at which he experienced much unkind behaviour, he arrived in the vicinity of Sego; but finding that Mansong had commanded his servants to apprehend him, he prudently resolved to alter his course, and accordingly proceeded westward to the Foulah village of Sooboo, from whence he travelled by the side

of the Niger, passing the towns of Kamalia and Sai, which are both large, and encompassed with walls; the latter is surrounded with deep trenches, furnished with strong, square towers, and bears the appearance of a regular fortification.

On the 15th of August he reached the village of Kaimoo, which stands upon the bank of the river, and arrived, towards evening, at another village, distinguished by the name of Song, but was refused admittance at the gates.

Though sensibly hurt at this morose and inhospitable treatment, our author determined to remain in the neighbourhood; and therefore collected a quantity of grass for his horse, and then endeavoured to compose his own exhausted powers beneath the shade of a tree; but the roaring of a lion, at a small distance, quickly aroused him, and naturally inclined him again to seek an entrance, which was again inhumanly refused. At length, however, he informed them of the approaching monster, from which he humbly implored a refuge within their walls.

Upon this request, the natives hesitated, and before he could receive an answer, the dreadful beast came so near, that Mr. Park could plainly hear his footsteps rustling through the grass, and was compelled immediately to ascend the tree, in which he remained till midnight, when the gates were cautiously opened, and our adventurer was admitted.

The following day he passed a large town, called Jabbee, which is embellished with a mosque, beyond which the country begins to ascend; and from whence he discerned the summits of some western mountains. About noon, he rested at Yamina, much frequented by the Moors, and strikingly beautiful at a distance; and in the evening arrived at the village of Farra.

Pursuing his route in the morning, he passed Balaba, and beheld the ruins of three other towns, which Daisy, of Kaarta, had lately demolished.

Mistaking his road, on the 18th, he proceeded for

some time unconscious of his error ; but finding the river considerably to the left, he directed his course towards it, with much difficulty, through the bushes and long grass, till he reached a little river, with a rapid current, which he at first supposed was a branch of the Niger.

After viewing it attentively, as he sat on its brink, and despairing of information from any passenger, he resolved to wade through, if possible, by entering above the path-way, before the stream had swept too far down ; and with this intention fastened his apparel to the horse which he was leading into the water, himself advancing therein to the neck, when a person accidentally coming to the place, warned him loudly to return to the shore, as otherwise both he and his horse would inevitably be destroyed by the alligators.

On his landing, the kind stranger was evidently alarmed at his appearance ; and twice articulated, faintly, " God preserve me !" but when our author addressed him in the language of Bambarra, his terror seemed abated ; he informed the European, that this was the river Frina, and promised to procure him a passage to the opposite bank. Accordingly, on his shouting, two boys came paddling towards them with a canoe, in which they safely transported our traveller across the stream ; and in the evening he entered the towu of Taffara.

Here, however, he was but indifferently treated, the natives being engaged in the election of a governor ; and was compelled to remain till midnight under a tree, while a heavy tempest raged with violence around him.

From hence he proceeded to a village called Sooha, to which he sought to buy some corn of the governor, who sat near the gate, but was informed there was none to spare.

While contemplating the features of this man, a slave was ordered to fetch his paddle, and dig a hole

in the ground, who accordingly began to remove the earth, while the governor repeatedly muttered, "A mere plague, good for nothing;" and other similar sentences, which our traveller judged might be applied to him; and therefore mounted his horse, to avoid the pit which, bearing an exact resemblance to a grave, served to corroborate his first idea; but, just as he was about to depart, the corpse of a lad, entirely naked, was brought to the spot by a leg and an arm, and thrown into its gloomy resting-place, with the most brutal indifference; when "money lost," struck on the ears of our amazed adventurer, who now understood the former strange expressions, and hastily retired from the disgusting scene.

His next stage was to Koolikorro, a large town, and considerable for its trade in salt.

A superstitious Bambarran, who had turned Mahometan, accommodated him with a lodging, and promised him some rice for supper, provided he would oblige him, by writing a saphie, which might defeat the purposes, and shield him from the power of wicked men.

The proposal was accepted; a writing-board produced, and completely filled by Mr. Park; when the pious Bambarran uttered some prayers over it, washed the important letters into a calabash, with a little water, and devoutly swallowed the potent draught; after which he carefully licked the board, lest unhappily a fragment should be lost.

This circumstance was instantly transmitted to the governor, who sent his son with some writing-paper to request a saphie, which might procure riches. The desire was politely complied with; some meal and milk presented in return, and a breakfast promised for the next morning.

The subsequent day, our author entered Mariboo which, like Koolikorro, is an extensive town, and a great market for salt, where he passed the night in a hut, with seven other persons.

In the morning he crossed a creek of considerable depth, into which he precipitated his horse, and then swam over with the bridle between his teeth, having first secured his memorandums in his hat.

He then arrived at Bammaka, the inhabitants of which are very opulent, although the town is inconsiderable; from whence he was conducted by a singing man, who, after travelling two miles up a rocky glen, acknowledged that he had taken a wrong course.

Finding it impracticable to proceed, Mr. Park returned to the plain; and taking an easterly direction, soon arrived at some shepherds' huts, where he understood he was now in the right road, but at a great distance from Sibidooloo, which he had destined for his evening resting-place.

He therefore continued his journey till the sun began to tinge the clouds with his withdrawing beams, when the romantic village of Kooma attracted his attention. This place is the sole property of a Mandingo merchant, whose fields supply him with an abundance of corn, and whose flocks roam carelessly over the valley; while a high wall encircles his happy villages, and the circumjacent rocks defend him from the dread of hostile invasion.

Visitors are seldom seen within his little domain; but if, by chance, a weary traveller arrives therein, he infallibly finds a kind and hearty welcome.

On our adventurer's alighting, he was surrounded by a number of the peaceful inhabitants, who eagerly questioned him respecting his country; and, to reward him for his surprising intelligence, they kindly regaled him with milk and corn; collected some grass for his horse; illumed his appointed hut with a cheerful fire; and evidently desired to render him as comfortable as possible.

As the road from hence was exceeding steep and rocky, Mr. Park was obliged to proceed leisurely on the following day; till stopping to quench his thirst,

at a little rivulet, he was alarmed by loud and repeated sounds of distress, which he at first supposed were occasioned by the unexpected appearance of some ravenous beasts ; but on proceeding a little further, he found a shepherd stretched on the ground ; who, on his approach, advised him, in a whisper, to stop, as a number of armed persons had forcibly seized his comrade, and endangered his own life by their arrows, as he fled from them.

While our author reflected on the nature of this intelligence, and remained irresolute, in what manner to act, he discerned seven or eight men, seated at a small distance, and armed with musquets.

Supposing they might, probably, be elephant hunters, he now rode up to them, and civilly asked whether they had met with any success in shooting. Unmindful of the question, one of them commanded him to dismount ; but, apparently changing his mind, directly made a sign for him to proceed. Our adventurer obeyed the mute injunction ; and had passed over a small piece of water, when, on looking back, he beheld the same people pursuing him, and heard them repeatedly call him back ; he accordingly slackened his pace, till they overtook him ; when they affirmed, that the sovereign of the Foulahs had expressly ordered them to convey him, with his horse, and whatever he possessed, to Fouladoo. Mr. Park accordingly followed them ; but on their reaching an obscure place in the wood, one of them exclaimed, " This spot will do ;" and instantly deprived our traveller of his hat, who declared he would proceed no further unless it was returned ; but, instead of returning him his hat, or even vouchsafing him an answer, a second ruffian cut away the only metal button which remained upon our author's waistcoat, and conveyed it to his pocket.

This action fully convinced the European, that he was in the hands of a lawless banditti, with whom resistance must prove fruitless ; and therefore pa-

tiently submitted to their examination of his apparel, which was so minute as to strip him completely; his pockets were turned out, his upper and under waistcoats searched, and even his boots carefully inspected.

While they were engaged in the contemplation of their plunder, he fervently entreated them to restore his compass; but, on his pointing to it, one of the robbers presented his piece, and threatened to murder him if he durst presume to touch it.

The party now separated; one division leading away the horse of our hapless traveller; and the other debating, whether they should abandon him naked, as he was, to the fierce beams of the sun; or otherwise allow him a trifling shelter. After a long altercation, the latter resolution was adopted; and they threw him back a shirt, a pair of trowsers, and his hat, by which his memorandums were thus happily preserved.

Thus wretched and forlorn, an entire stranger in an unknown country, Mr. Park experienced, notwithstanding, such sweet and powerful consolation from the Christian religion at this trying moment, that his heart was sufficiently tranquillized (in the midst of a wilderness, five hundred miles from any European settlement, exposed to savage beasts, and human monsters far more cruel,) to admit the most exquisite sense of delight, while contemplating the wonders of his glorious Creator, in a beautiful moss, which struck his eye in full fructification.

After indulging himself a short space, with this pleasing object, he renewed his journey, regardless of fatigue and hunger, till he overtook some shepherds, who accompanied him from Keomar; and with whom, about sun-set, he entered the frontier town in the kingdom of Manding, distinguished by the name of Sibidooloo.

This town is seated in the midst of a fruitful valley; but on account of the rocky eminences which

surround it, it is scarcely accessible to horses. Its political concerns are under the direction of a governor, who is called the Mansa; a similar officer is established in every town belonging to this kingdom, which we have already mentioned as a sort of republic, and the power of the state, on any emergency, is vested in the united body.

The people, who flocked around our author, on his arrival, presented him to their mansa, who was immediately informed of the cruel robbery sustained by the European, and convinced of its veracity by the shepherds.

He listened attentively to the narration; and when he had finished smoking his pipe, he told Mr. Park, with an indignant look, that all his property should be restored; "for," said he, "I have sworn it. After which, he commanded his attendants to go over the hills, at break of day, and tell the Dooty of Bammakoo, that a poor white man, the king of Bambarra's stranger, had been robbed by the people of Fouladoo.

Having returned his acknowledgments to the governor, for this noble and spirited conduct, Mr. Park was conducted, by his orders, to a hut, at which some food was prepared on his account, but his repose was delayed till after midnight, by the crowd of persons which assembled to see him.

Here he continued two days; when he requested permission to proceed on his journey, and was desired by the mansa to go to Wanda, at which he desired him to remain, till some tidings were brought respecting his horse, and the other articles, of which the banditti had deprived him.

He accordingly walked to Wanda, which is a little town, encircled with a high wall and provided with a mosque, at which he obtained a lodging, in an open shed, which was appropriated to the use of a school, by the mansa, who was himself a Mahometan teacher.

At this place our author found a return of his fever, accompanied by many alarming symptoms; and during the nine days that he spent here he had a daily attack of the malady.

On the account of a great scarcity of provisions, the mansa was generally attended in an evening by a number of women, who came to receive an allotted quantity of corn, which Mr. Park at first supposed was delivered out from the charity of the governor; but on asking him the question, he replied, "That boy which you observe (pointing to a child apparently five years old) is sold to me by his mother, for provision for herself and the residue of her family for forty days, and I have other purchases of the same nature."

On the return of the women, Mr. Park requested the youth to show him which was his mother; when he immediately pointed out an emaciated creature, but one whose features betrayed no mark of savage cruelty. She received her portion with her companions, and cheerfully conversed with her son till her departure.

On the 6th of September, our traveller received his horse and clothes from two persons, who were sent with them from Sibidooloo; but his compass was totally spoiled. The next day, as his poor steed was grazing near the brink of a well, the ground unfortunately gave way, and he fell into the water, from whence, on account of its great depth, the natives were fearful that he could never be recovered. A number of withies, however, were collected, and a man let down into the well, the diameter of which was ten feet, who fastened them round the body of the horse, by which means he was drawn up with the greatest facility.

The poor animal, which was now a mere skeleton, was unable to travel any further; wherefore Mr. Park presented him to his landlord, and sent the saddle and bridle to the humane governor of Sibidooloo.

Quitting Wanda, he altered his half boots into sandals, as being more suitable to his pedestrian journey ; and on the 17th of the month arrived at a considerable town, called Mansia, where gold is sometimes found in small quantities.

The mansa, though reputed a harsh, uncharitable man, sent a supper of corn to the exhausted invalid ; from whom, however, he demanded a present in return ; and on Mr. Park's assuring him that he had nothing valuable in his possession, he replied, " A white skin shall not defend you, if you tell me lies." He then conducted him to a small hut, in which he might repose for the night, and taking away a spear, which the European had received from the mansa of Wanda, retired to his own habitation.

As our traveller was rather suspicious of this person, he secretly prevailed on one of the inhabitants to sleep with him, and bring his bow and arrows to the hut. The request was complied with, and about midnight the light of the moon discovered a man opening the door with the utmost precaution, who hastily withdrew on Mr. Park's snatching up the negro's bow, and who afterwards proved to be the suspected mansa.

As soon as the day began to dawn, our author dispatched his companion to the governor's house, in quest of his spear ; who soon returned with it, and telling him the mansa was not yet awake, strongly advised him to pursue his route ; in consequence of which he departed immediately, and in a little time reached the town of Kamalia, situated at the foot of some rocky hills, and noted for the gold which is there abundantly collected.

He was here conducted to the abode of a priest or bushreen, called Karfa Taura, who was employed in collecting slaves to sell on the Gambia. On Mr. Park's arrival, he presented him a book, which was written in the Arabic tongue, and asked, with a smile, whether he could read it. Receiving a

negative answer to his question, he desired one of his servants to fetch the curious little volume, which had been conveyed thither from the western country. The man accordingly obeyed, and, to our traveller's great astonishment, returned with "The Book of Common Prayer," which is used in the English establishment.

Karfa was evidently delighted to find that his guest understood it. He then provided a hut for the stranger's residence, which he kindly furnished with a mat for his repose, a small calabash, and a jar to contain water. He likewise allowed him two meals a day, which were regularly carried from his own table; and the slaves were commanded to supply the hut with fuel and water; by which means our author's situation was rendered pleasant and agreeable.

A return of his fever, however, alarmed him considerably, and even endangered his life, for five weeks; during which the hospitable Karfa soothed him by every act of distinguished kindness.

On his recovery, this worthy man was obliged to depart on his intended expedition, but carefully provided for our adventurer, by leaving him under the care of an ancient bushreen, whose character was unimpeachable, and whose time was devoted to the instruction of the young natives of Kamalia.

In this situation, we must beg permission to leave Mr. Park, till we have rendered an expected account to our readers of the climate, productions, customs, ceremonies, &c. observable in the African countries.

Throughout his whole route, both in going and returning, our author found the climate exceeding hot; though at no place so intense as Benowm.

In some parts, indeed, where the country rises into hills, the air is comparatively cool. The tornadoes begin about the middle of June, which ushers in the wet season, commonly continuing till November.

If the wind sets in from the north-east, a consider-

able alteration takes place in the appearance of the country, as the rivers quickly subside, the grass becomes dry, and the leaves fall from the generality of the trees.

The harmatton, a parching dry wind, also blows about the same time, attended with a smoky haze, through which the sun is discerned as a dull, red body. When this wind sweeps over the Great Desert, it parches up all the moisture which is exposed to its current; yet it is reputed exceedingly healthful to Europeans, whose relaxed solids are braced by its powers, and their spirits surprisingly revived by the facility which it affords to respiration; while the natives complain that it chaps their lips, and frequently afflicts them with a soreness in their eyes.

When the grass is supposed to be sufficiently withered, it is set on fire by the negroes, (except in Ludamar, and some Moorish places, where the cattle are fed upon it, till the return of rain,) which, in the dead of night, illumines the air with astonishing lines of flame, and seems as if the country was wrapt in one devouring blaze, and in the hours of day, the smoke ascends in every direction, while the birds of prey dart upon the lizards, snakes, and other affrighted reptiles, which strive to escape from the terrors of the conflagration.

By this annual burning, the air is considerably purified, and the country is soon clothed with a sweet and beautiful verdure.

The cacao tree, the sugar cane, with the pine apple, and several delicious fruits are totally unknown in Africa, and the few oranges and bananas which are found near the mouth of the Gambia, were most probably introduced by the Portuguese.

The native property of the land belongs to the king, or, in a republic, to the state. When any free individual desires an extension of land, for cultivation, he applies to the ruler of his district, who readily grants his request, upon condition that the

same shall be forfeited, if not properly cultivated within a limited time; if the condition is fulfilled, the soil is then vested in its possessor, to whose heirs it afterwards descends.

The population of Africa is rather inconsiderable, though the interior is much better filled with inhabitants than any of the maritime parts.

The negroes, though of various nations, are remarkably similar in their dispositions.

The Mandingoes are gentle, lively, credulous, and fond of flattery; they are also extremely inquisitive; but their character is materially stained by petty robbery, to which they have a great propensity; they are, however, generally honest among themselves.

Their sense of justice is neither extinguished nor perverted. Their charity is always disinterested, and their solicitude to soothe the distress of the wretched demands the highest encomiums.

Mr. Park unites his testimony to that of Mr. Ledyard, his worthy predecessor, that their women are eminently distinguished by these soft and amiable virtues, and are also remarkable for their maternal affection, always suckling their children till they are able to walk: this nursing often continues for three years, during which the husband bestows his attendance upon his other wives.

Filial love is equally manifested through every part of Africa, and hence a negro conceives, that a reproach on his mother is the greatest insult which any person can possibly offer.

As the children advance in years, the boys are instructed in the labours of husbandry, and the girls are taught to beat the corn, to spin cotton, and to perform other domestic duties.

As the people suppose that the connubial state is rendered prolific by circumcision, both sexes are obliged, at the age of puberty, to undergo this painful operation. A number of young persons generally submit to this rite at the same time, who are ex-

empted, for the space of two months, from every sort of labour. In this time they unite themselves into a society, bearing the name of Solimaneroo, and visit the neighbouring towns or villages, at which they are always courteously treated, and where they pass their hours in singing, dancing, and sportive amusements.

If, in the course of this celebration, or at any other time, a man happens to fancy one of the young damsels, his first business is, without addressing the object of his choice, to make such an offer to her parents, as may be deemed a suitable compensation to them for the loss of their child, whose company and services they have hitherto possessed; this is commonly fixed at the value of two slaves, unless the lady is accounted a beauty, when the demands of her friends are naturally raised above the usual sum.

If the suitor is able and willing to advance the desired equivalent, he then entertains the maiden with the tale of love, though her consent is but of small avail, in respect of the match; for, if her parents, in token of agreement, have eaten a few kolla nuts with their intended son-in-law, the daughter must either accept the hand of the lover whom they present to her, or otherwise devote her life to perpetual celibacy. The parents are likewise precluded from giving her to any other person, as, in case of such an attempt, the first lover is permitted to seize her as his slave by the laws of the country.

When the day for solemnizing a marriage is appointed, a select party is invited to the celebration, when a goat or bullock is killed, and an abundance of victuals cooked on the occasion.

The bride is conducted in the evening to a hut, where a number of matrons array her in the wedding dress, which is composed of white cotton, in such a manner as to conceal her form entirely, after which she is seated on a mat, in the midst of these friendly assistants, who instruct her, with equal gravity and

propriety, in the deportment suitable for a married person. The scene however is sometimes enlivened by a number of girls, who amuse the company with their songs and dances.

The bridegroom, in the mean time, entertains the visitors, who are assembled in the open air, and by presenting them with kolla nuts, increases the general festivity; after which the supper is served, and the remainder of the night is devoted to singing and dancing.

At midnight, the new married lady is led, by her companions, to the hut designed for her future abode, and her spouse, on an appointed signal, withdraws from the circle of his friends.

In the morning the couple are generally disturbed by an assembly of women, who come to inspect, and dance around the nuptial sheet.

We have already observed, that a plurality of wives is allowed in this country; the Mahometans, however, seldom marry more than four, who are treated much the same as hired servants in Europe: they regularly attend the affairs of the house, and perform the task of cookery in rotation.

Conjugal infidelity is scarcely known in these parts; the ladies, indeed, are apt to disagree, and the husband is sometimes obliged to inflict a corporal chastisement before their contentions are decided.

The offspring of the Mandingoes are not always named after their parents, but usually receive a name expressive of some particular quality: thus, Fadibbee signifies 'father of the town,' Modi, 'a good man,' &c.

The ceremony of shaving a child's head, is performed at eight days old, when a dish of bruised corn is prepared for the company, to which, if the relatives are opulent, a goat or sheep is added.

After the infant's head is shaved, from whence the feast receives its name, the priest pronounces a long prayer over the corn, while every person in the company holds the brim of the dish with his right hand.

The babe is then taken into the arms of the priest, who, in a second prayer, implores the blessing of God upon the child, and all the spectators; at the conclusion of this solemn request, he spits thrice in the infant's face, whispers some sentences in its ear, proclaims its name with an audible voice, and returns it to the mother. A present of corn is afterwards given, by the father of the child, to each of the guests, and thus the ceremony closes.

Each individual, however, among the negroes, has a koutong, or surname, besides that which is received in this curious manner.

The negroes have no other method of dividing time, than by the calculation of rainy seasons, which serve to denote the years. These are portioned into moons, the days are reckoned by suns, and these are again divided into morning, mid-day, and evening; but, in reply to a question which demands a further subdivision, they point to the place of the sun in the heavens.

Many of their religious opinions are worthy of attention. They universally believe in one Supreme Ruler, and expect hereafter to enter a state of misery or felicity; but they deem it unnecessary to address their Creator, except on the first appearance of a new moon, which they suppose is newly created, when each of them pronounces a short prayer, in a whisper, concealing his face till it is concluded, when he spits in his hands, and rubs them over his features.

Though they regard the Almighty as the creator and preserver of all things, they imagine that his nature is too exalted, and his purposes too firmly fixed, for wretched mortals to derive any benefit from their feeble petitions; and therefore, if they are asked why they pray at the new moon, they simply reply, "Because our fathers did so before us."

They likewise suppose the concerns of the world are committed into the hands of various subordinate intelligences, with whom they imagine a magical cere-

mony is extremely prevalent; hence they frequently attempt to deprecate their favour by an offering of fruits, or a white fowl, suspended from the branch of a particular tree.

Religion is seldom the theme of their discourse, and any interrogation, which might lead to a discussion on the subject of futurity, is directly evaded, by this reply, "No man knows any thing of the matter."

They deem the last quarter of the moon an unlucky time to undertake a journey, or any other business of importance. The stars are but little regarded; an eclipse is regarded as the effect of witchcraft, and astronomy and magic are reckoned synonymous terms.

Their ideas of geography are equally strange and inconsistent. They describe the earth as an extensive plane, the termination of which is concealed by the clouds and darkness; the sea as an immense river of salt water, and the further shore as, "the land of white people, beyond which they also describe another tract, which they call the land where the slaves are sold," and which they suppose is inhabited by gigantic cannibals; but on the close of such romantic descriptions, they will always observe, their own country is the most desirable, and its inhabitants the happiest people in the world.

From the simplicity of their diet and an active mode of life, they are in general healthy, though sometimes fluxes and fevers prove fatal to them: on the approach of the latter, a sort of vapour bath is prepared, by covering some hot wood embers with branches of the *Nauclea orientalis*, upon which the patient is laid, wrapped up in a cotton cloth, the branches are then sprinkled with water, which, by dropping on the embers, raises a cloud of vapour, which causes a profuse perspiration in the invalid, who is permitted to remain in the same position till the fire is nearly extinguished, and who generally

finds a wonderful relief from the adoption of this method. The dysentery is usually cured by the patient's taking the bark of several trees, which is pounded and mixed with his victuals.

The yaws, the elephantiasis, and a dreadful species of leprosy, called the incurable malady, are also prevalent in this country. The latter appears at first in a number of scurfy spots, which after some time withers; the skin upon the hands and feet frequently cracking and emitting a fetid discharge, the finger bones then putrefy, and the nails drop off; which sometimes spreads so rapidly, that the unhappy sufferer is deprived of his hands and feet, without the possibility of redress.

The inhabitants of some districts are afflicted with the Guinea worm, and glandular swellings of the neck, and a simple gonorrhea has been known to appear in the interior.

The negroes in general understand surgery much better than the application of medicine, often managing dislocations and fractures with real skill, and considerable success; their bandages and splinters are extremely simple, and easily admit of a removal. In the case of a fracture, the patient is laid upon a soft mat, and the limb repeatedly bathed with cold water; abscesses are opened with a red-hot iron, and dressed with a composition of soft leaves and cow's dung, or shea butter. In a local inflammation, they make several small incisions in the afflicted part, to which a bullock's horn is applied, with a small orifice at the end; the operator then, holding a piece of bees' wax in his mouth, by a dexterous application of his lips and tongue, extracts the air from the horn and closes the hole with wax, thus performing a curious sort of cupping.

Phlebotomy is likewise practised in the maritime parts, or in any place where European lancets can be procured.

On the decease of a chief or respectable native, the

neighbours and relatives assemble, to express their grief in loud and doleful howlings. The persons who assist at the funeral are feasted on a bullock or goat, which is slain for that purpose.

The corpse is arrayed in white cotton, and generally deposited in its sepulchre the same evening; the grave is often dug in the hut of the deceased, or beneath some favourite tree, while a mat serves as a winding sheet, in place of a coffin. If, however, it is buried without the walls of the town, the spot is covered with a quantity of prickly bushes, to defend it from the wolves, which otherwise would dig up and devour the body.

Notwithstanding the uniform simplicity of their lives, these people very seldom attain longevity, but at forty years of age are generally gray-headed, feeble, and wrinkled.

The koonting, the korro, the simbling, the balaffou, and the tantang, are the musical instruments in general use; the first of which is a kind of guitar, with only three strings; the second resembles a large harp, and is furnished with eighteen strings; the third is similar to the second, but on a smaller scale; the fourth is composed of twenty pieces of hard wood, of various lengths, and supplied with the shells of gourds beneath, to raise the sound; while the latter is already described, in this work, as a large drum, open at the lower end, which is used promiscuously, to spread an alarm, or to celebrate a peculiar occasion.

They also use bow-strings, elephants' teeth, bells, and small flutes; and clapping of hands appears indispensably requisite to the full chorus, at a dance or concert.

Poetical geniuses are also found among them, who are divided into two separate classes; the first of which are, itinerant Mahometans, travelling about the country, singing their pious effusions, in honour of their prophet, and performing divers religious ce-

remonies; while the others, who are far more numerous, are called singing men, and in every town proclaim, in their extempore songs, the virtues and honours of their chiefs or others, who are willing to reward empty flattery with a substantial meal.

They likewise attend the soldier, to the scene of engagement, that, by reciting the martial exploits of their ancestors, with the historical events of their country, a glorious spirit of emulation may be awakened in their auditors.

The diet of the people varies with the districts they inhabit, but the free natives generally breakfast, soon after the dawn of day, upon a mixture of meal and water, which derives a gentle acidity from the fruit of the tamarind. Dinner is commonly served about two o'clock, and usually consists of a sort of hasty pudding, meliorated with shea butter; but supper, which is their chief repast, is seldom prepared till midnight, when they universally feast on kouskous, with a little meat, or the vegetable butter already mentioned. The left hand is never used in eating.

Beer, or mead, is the usual beverage of the negroes, who frequently drink to an excess; but the Mussulmen abstain from every liquor, but water.

Snuff and tobacco are used indiscriminately by Pagans and Mahometans; their pipes are formed of wood, with an earthen bowl, curiously wrought.

Salt is the greatest luxury in Africa, insomuch that, to say a person eats salt to his food, is accounted the same as affirming, that he is an opulent man.

Though an European would, doubtless, be astonished to see an infant suck a piece of rock-salt as a delicacy; this is frequent in these parts, where the poor inhabitants are scarce ever indulged with it.

The negroes are an industrious people, constantly seeking employment in fishing, hunting, or the labours of husbandry. They are very dexterous in the

use of their bows and arrows, and are such excellent marksmen, that they will shoot a lizard, on a tree, or any minute object, at a great distance.

They also weave a very durable cloth, in a loom, exactly similar to those which are used in Europe, allowing for its narrow dimensions, which merely admits a web of four inches broad, and the shuttle is of the usual construction. This cloth is first spun by the women from thread, which, though rather coarse, is well twisted, and after it is wove it passes again into their hands, for the purpose of dyeing, which is performed in the following manner:

When the leaves of indigo are fresh gathered, they are first bruised in a wooden mortar, and then mixed with a strong lye of wood ashes and chamber ley, in a large earthen vessel. In this mixture the cloth is steeped till it acquires a beautiful colour, which bears an excellent gloss, and is equal to the best Indian or European blue.

Thus dyed, it is cut up for domestic purposes, and formed into garments, by needles of the African manufacture.

The only trades which seem appropriate to these people are the manufactures of iron and leather.

For the first, a melting furnace is erected near Kamalia, consisting of a round, clay tower, about ten feet high, and three in diameter, encircled with withies, to secure the clay from cracking by the violence of the heat. Seven openings are constructed around the bottom of the furnace, each of which contains three tubes, by the opening or closing of which the fire is regulated, as no air can be admitted but through these conveyances.

These tubes were originally made by plaistering a composition of grass and clay around a smooth wooden roller, which was removed when the tube began to harden in the sun.

The process observed in melting, our author describes thus:

A quantity of dry wood was first laid in the furnace, and covered with charcoal, which was prepared in the woods. A stratum of iron stone, which is exceedingly heavy, of a reddish colour, variegated with grayish specks, was then laid over the charcoal, till the furnace was filled in this manner.

The fire was then introduced through one of the tubes, and blown with a pair of double bellows, simply constructed, of two goat skins, the pipes of which are united, and thereby supply a constant and regular blast.

Several hours elapsed before any flame appeared above the surface, but it burnt rapidly afterwards, and continued to blaze with great violence all night, while it was supplied with charcoal by the appointed attendants. On the subsequent day, the fire was considerably abated, and on the second night, a greater quantity of air was admitted, by withdrawing some of the tubes; the heat however was still intense, and a pale blue flame ascended several feet above the furnace.

On the third day, the remaining tubes, many of which were vitrified by the heat, were removed, and in the course of a few days the furnace, which was then perfectly cool, was partly taken down, and discovered the iron in a large, irregular mass, which was sonorous, and, if broken, resembled broken steel in its granulated appearance.

This metal is afterwards formed into different instruments, at a forge, which is repeatedly heated, and blown with such bellows as we have already described. The anvil, forceps, and hammer, are extremely simple, and the workmanship by no means undeserving applause.

The African blacksmiths are, in general, acquainted with the art of extracting gold from ore. In performing this, they make use of an alkaline salt, which is obtained from a lye of burnt corn-stalks, evaporated to dryness.

They also draw out their gold into wire, and thereby furnish the natives with a variety of tasteful and ingenious ornaments.

Leather is tanned and dressed very expeditiously, by first steeping the hide in water, mixed with wood ashes, till the hair is separated from the skin, and then by applying the bruised leaves of the Goo tree, as an astringent; after which it is repeatedly rubbed with the hand, and beaten upon a stone, to render it soft and pliant.

Bullocks' hides are usually cut up for sandals, and are therefore dressed with less caution than sheep or goat skins, which yield a variety of cases, sheaths, belts, pockets, &c. These are generally dyed red, by a powder procured from stalks of millet, or yellow, by the root of a particular plant.

The Africans also form some elegant baskets, hats, and other articles, from rushes, which they stain with various colours, and sometimes cover their calabashes with cane, which is interwoven and dyed in a similar manner.

It is likewise worthy of remark that, in every laborious occupation, the marks of distinction are laid aside, and the master works with his slaves, without assuming any superiority.

As it was natural for our author to make some inquiries on the interesting subject of slavery, he informs us, as the result of his intelligence, added to his own remarks, that the sons of bondage constitute nearly three-fourths of the people, demanding no other recompense for their labours than food and raiment, and are treated with severity or gentleness, according to the various tempers of their employers.

Those who are domesticated, by receiving their birth beneath a master's roof, are always favoured with more indulgences than the slaves of purchase, and likewise enjoy some important privileges, as their owners' authority is limited to a moderate correction,

and they are unable to sell them, without the sanction of a public trial.

Such unhappy creatures, however, as are either bought with money, or taken captive in war, are strangers to these consolations, and may be treated as the caprice of a master directs, or sold, without hesitation, to any foreigner.

Regular markets are established for this inhuman traffic, where Europeans chiefly flock, to *buy* their fellow-creatures.

The African wars are of two kinds, the one open, and publicly proclaimed; and the other, proceeding from the hereditary animosity, which the people of one land or district retain against another.

When this is the case, the inveterate foes seek every opportunity to plunder and harass the objects of their hatred, without any previous declarations of their hostile intentions. These incursions, though secretly conducted, produce a swift and certain retaliation.

War is certainly the greatest cause of slavery, and frequent attendant, famine, enchains those miserable wretches, who escape successfully from the arms of their enemies; as then bondage is preferable to the pangs of insatiate hunger.

A great number of persons were thus subjected to slavery, during a severe scarcity which continued for three years, in the vicinity of the Gambia, when several free natives earnestly implored Dr. Laidley to put them upon his slave chain, thereby to rescue them from the jaws of famine.

Another common source of bondage is, insolvency; as, provided a negro, who has taken goods from any European, upon credit, is unable to pay for them at the appointed time, the African law permits the creditor to seize the *person* in lieu of his money, or, if he absconds, any branch of his family; or, in default of these, any inhabitant of the same nation.

If the latter is captivated, he must remain a pri-

soner, while his friends endeavour to discover the proper debtor.

If they succeed in their search, a public assembly is called, which releases the captive, and compels the other to fulfil his engagement, or to submit to the decision of the law, in his own person; but if he cannot be found, the prisoner must be sold, or otherwise purchase his redemption by a sum double to the original debt.

Slavery is also inflicted as a punishment for the crimes of murder, witchcraft, and adultery. When the former is committed, the nearest relative of the deceased is authorised to sell the offender, or to kill him with his own hand. By witchcraft is commonly meant the administering any poison; and the adulterer is either enslaved or ransomed, at the option of the injured party, who generally names a sum as an equivalent to his damages.

Gold is collected through every part of Manding, and in other districts of the interior, in little grains, nearly as large as peas, amidst a large body of clay or sand.

At the conclusion of the harvest, which is generally about the beginning of December, when the streams have subsided, the mansa proclaims a day on which the women are to begin "gold washing," who accordingly attend, at the appointed time, with a spade to dig the sand, some calabashes for washing the ore, which the natives call "gold powder," and a few quills to contain it after its cleansing.

A bullock is killed for the entertainment of the first day, and a variety of charms and prayers are used to render the undertaking fortunate, as any failure on the commencement is deemed exceedingly inauspicious.

The easiest method of procuring the gold, is by washing the sand of the streams, which is performed by some, while others devote their labours to another part, where the rapidity of the torrent has swept

away the sand, and merely left the pebbles, among which, however, such pieces of ore are frequently found as amply reward the painful search.

The separation of the sand from the gold is performed in the following simple manner:

A certain portion, mixed with a suitable quantity of water, is put into a large calabash, which is shaken so as to mix its contents, at first gently, and afterwards quick, till, at every revolution, some coarse particles of sand and a little muddy water fly over the brim of the vessel. This is continued for some time, after which the sand is left to settle, and the water poured away. The coarse sand, which is uppermost in the calabash, is then cleared off by the hand, and the operation is renewed with fresh water, till it comes off nearly pure.

The woman who performs this task, next takes another calabash, and empties the contents of the former gently into it, except that portion of sand, which, remaining near the bottom, is most probably enriched with gold. This is mixed with some clear water, and minutely inspected, whilst it is stirred about, and when a few particles of gold are thus obtained, the other vessel is examined in a similar manner.

It is seldom, however, that more than four grains are found in both the calabashes.

The dust is finally placed in quills, which are stopped with cotton, and which the washers are ambitious of displaying in their hair.

Various female ornaments are manufactured from this gold, many of which are exceedingly massy, particularly ear-rings, the weight of which requires a support of red leather, fastened over the head, to avoid a laceration of the lobe of the ear.

A complete set of ornaments, for a lady's dress, may be estimated from fifty to eighty pounds, English value.

The negroes are always provided with small ba-

lances, in which they weigh their gold, the greatest part of which is given to the Moors for salt and other useful articles, and is equally esteemed, as to its value, whether it is wrought or given in dust.

The negroes express a violent surprise at the eagerness with which Europeans enquire for elephants' teeth.

The interior of Africa abounds with elephants, but they seem of a distinct species from such as are found in Asia.

The interior districts produce the chief part of that ivory which is sold on the Senegal and Gambia rivers. Travellers are particular in their examination of the woods, where scattered teeth are often picked up, from the following cause:

The roots of such bushes and shrubs as flourish in a dry and elevated soil are frequently overturned by the teeth of the elephant, which he thrusts beneath them (preferring the tender, juicy root, to the hard branches) with facility; but when the bushes are firmly fixed, and the animal's teeth partly decayed, his repeated exertions are apt to break them off, and thus exposes them to the hand of the passenger.

The hunters commonly go out in small parties of four or five persons, each of whom is furnished with powder, ball, and sufficient provision for six days. They at first penetrate into the most obscure parts of the wood, examining every thing with great attention that may lead to the desired discovery of elephants.

When a herd appears in sight, the hunters follow at a small distance, till one of the animals happens to stray from the rest, when they creep gently through the high grass, till they can discharge their pieces with the advantage of a certain aim. They then fire at once, and fall on their faces, while the elephant applies his trunk to his numerous wounds; but finding his efforts fruitless, and seeing no object near him, he runs with surprising fury among the bushes, till, faint

and exhausted with the loss of blood, he gives the hunters an opportunity of destroying him by a second volley, which generally levels him with the earth.

The skin is then flayed off, and fastened to the ground with pegs, that it may be properly extended and dried, while several parts of the flesh are cut into slices and dried in the sun, for a future supply of food, and the teeth are struck out with a hatchet, with which the hunters fell such trees as contain wild honey. The ivory is commonly sold to itinerant merchants, who come annually from the coast to purchase it with arms and ammunition.

To return from our digression :—We observe the schoolmaster, with whom our traveller was left at Kamalia, was a person of gentle disposition and amiable manners, neither rigid nor intolerant, though a Mahometan. Much of his time was devoted to literary studies, and the tuition of the rising generation was evidently his greatest delight.

Seventeen boys and two girls composed his little seminary, the former of whom recited their tasks around a large fire at night, and the latter were instructed in the course of the day.

The library of this teacher was enriched with a variety of manuscripts, which he had either borrowed from the neighbouring priests, or purchased from the Moorish traders.

Our author affirms that the negroes are possessed of the Pentateuch of Moses, in Arabic, which is held in such estimation as frequently to sell for the value of a prime slave.

A version of the Psalms, and another of Isaiah's Prophecies, are also extant in their country.

Interpolations, favourable to the doctrines of Mahomet, most probably abound in these copies. They are, however, sufficiently useful to acquaint the negroes with the principal incidents of the Old Testament.

When any pupil has read the whole of the Koran,

and repeated a stated number of public devotions, the schoolmaster prepares a feast, at which the youth is thoroughly examined, and finally requested to read the last page of the Koran aloud.

Having complied with this desire, he presses the book to his forehead, at the same time pronouncing a solemn Amen to its contents. All the priests who are present then quit their seats, and shaking him by the hand, salute him as a bushreen; after which his parents are advised to redeem their son, by presenting his tutor with a slave, or a suitable equivalent, as his education is now completed. This advice is immediately adopted, if the friends of the youth are able to procure the ransom, but if they are unfortunately indigent, the scholar must continue as a domestic slave to his schoolmaster till he can emancipate himself by the fruits of his own industry.

On the 24th of January, the worthy Karfa returned to his habitation with a young damsel, whom he had purchased for three prime slaves, and whom he introduced, as his fourth wife, to the objects of his former choice, who received her with great civility, and conducted her to a hut, which had been cleansed and white-washed for her reception.

Our author was presented, on his friend's return, with a new garment and trowsers of the African fashion and manufacture, and was shown thirteen prime slaves, who were also the purchase of Karfa.

These persons, though at first they seemed to view the European with horror, were soon tempted, by their inquisitive disposition, to enter into conversation with him.

They accordingly asked him whether his countrymen were cannibals; and, on his assuring them that they were employed in agriculture, they appeared extremely incredulous, insomuch, that one of them, with an air of great simplicity, put his hand upon the earth, and enquired whether the natives of Europe had really got such ground to set their feet on.

Eleven of these poor creatures acknowledged that they had lived in slavery from their infancy, but the others refused to answer any question relative to their birth or former stations.

They were sold to Karfa as prisoners of war, and were secured by the legs in couples, with the same pair of fetters: two couple were then united by twisted thongs fastened round their necks, while a string was put through their fetters, with which they hold them up when they had occasion to walk. Their hands are likewise fettered at night, and an iron chain is fixed round their necks; but if a slave proves rather refractory, his ankle is then secured, with a bolt and staple, to a heavy billet of wood, with a smooth notch formed on one side of it, through which the prongs of the staple appear on each side of the sufferer's ankle.

Thus confined by their irksome bonds, they are conducted every morning beneath the shade of a tamarind tree, where they are advised to revive their spirits by diverting songs and games of hazard; and, in the evening, after a minute inspection of their fetters, they are led back to their huts, and placed under a guard for the night.

In compliance with the customs observed by the priests at Kamalia, Mr. Park fasted three days, on the great fast of Rhamaden, while the schoolmaster instructed the people in various religious topics, from the folio performance of Sheiffa, a celebrated Arab author; and the evenings were devoted to the public prayers of such females as held the tenets of Mahomet.

These were all arrayed in white, and performed the appointed prostrations at the Misura with a decent solemnity, while the behaviour of the negroes was distinguished by meekness and humility.

At the expiration of the fast, the priests assembled in expectation of the new moon; but the evening proving cloudy, they were for some time deeply afflicted at the inauspicious disappointment. The clouds,

however, suddenly disparting, revealed the beautiful queen of night to the expecting throng, who instantly welcomed her appearance by clapping their hands, beating their drums, and discharging their musquets.

Our author quitted Kamalia on the 19th of April, with the caravan of stores, which contained near seventy-three persons, six of whom were singing men. The majority of the inhabitants followed this coffle near half a mile beyond their town, some expressing their grief by tears, and others squeezing the hands of their departing relatives.

When they had gained a gentle acclivity, the members of the caravan were desired to sit down, with their faces towards the west; and the affectionate followers sat down in another place, with their faces towards the town, while the schoolmaster, with two assistants, took his station between the two divisions, pronouncing a long and solemn prayer, at the conclusion of which they walked thrice around the caravan, marking the ground with their spears, and muttering a secret charm.

The travellers then arose, and proceeded forwards without taking a formal leave of their friends; but the sudden exercise of walking produced spasmodic contractions in the legs of the slaves, who had remained in irons for several years; two of them were therefore taken from the rope, and permitted to walk gently to Maraboo, from whence they proceeded to Bala and Worumbay, and on the 21st of the month entered upon the Jallonka Wilderness.

Here they rested a short time, while each individual was refreshed with a little meal and a draught of water, and then continued their route to the dangerous river of Kokora, so called from the abundance of crocodiles which it produces and the force of the torrent in a wet season, two small branches of which they crossed in the afternoon, and by sun-set came

within sight of Kintyakooro, a town of considerable note, nearly square in its appearance, and seated in the midst of an extensive and fertile plain.

The travellers were this day greatly delayed by three female slaves, whose excessive fatigue prevented them from keeping pace with the caravan. After a barbarous whipping, they were roughly dragged forwards, till two of them were affected with vomiting; when it appeared that these disconsolate wretches had eaten clay. Severity proving useless, they were then permitted to rest in the woods, from which they did not arrive till after midnight.

A remarkable etiquette was observed on approaching Kintyakooro, to which the cofle advanced in the following manner:

Six singing men, other free travellers, slaves in parties of four, each party attended by a guard, domestic slaves, wives of Slatees, and females of free condition, who brought up the rear.

When this procession had arrived within a hundred yards of the gate, a song, expressly composed to soothe the vanity of the natives, was loudly repeated by the musical conductors, who were now permitted to enter the town, and conducted to the town-house, where a multitude speedily assembled in expectation of their history.

This was accordingly recited by the poetical narrators, who were rewarded with a present from the governor; and every traveller received a portion of food, and accommodation for the night.

The next morning they departed from this town, and soon entered the Jallonka Wilderness, in which one of the female slaves began to loiter, and to complain of a dreadful pain in her legs: she was presented with some gruel, but refused to drink it; she was then eased of her load, which was given to another slave, and the caravan proceeded, till they arrived at the brink of a rivulet, where the attention of the

people was excited by a bee-hive, which appeared in a hollow tree, and from which, without reflecting on the danger, they attempted to take the honey.

An amazing swarm immediately rushed from the hive, attacking the invaders in all directions; and our author observes, as he was fortunate enough to take the first alarm, that he was the only person who escaped their vengeance.

While the people were employed in extracting the numerous stings which they had received, they missed the wretched female, whose sufferings had retarded her progress; and as several of the slaves had forgotten their bundles in the general consternation, the grass was set on fire, and while the wind drove the flames along with astonishing force, these persons pushed through the smoke, and returned with the miserable slave and their respective burdens.

As this poor creature was stung in a most shocking manner, she had crawled to the stream, hoping to secure herself from the bees, by sprinkling water over her body; but her scheme was unsuccessful.

The stings were now picked out of her flesh, her skin washed, and rubbed with pounded leaves; but the exhausted sufferer declared she would rather perish than proceed any further.

Threats and entreaties were alternately used in vain; but, on a severe application of the whip, she started from the ground, and travelled for near five hours, at a very tolerable pace, when, in attempting to run away from her conductors, she fell amidst the grass.

Recourse was had once more to the whip, but without effect, as the woman was now unable to rise; she was therefore placed upon an ass, which was burdened with provisions, but was even then too languid to sit in an erect position. The merchants, unwilling to abandon her, now caused her hands to be tied under the animal's neck, and her feet under his belly; but the ass, proving refractory, threw her off, and

bruised her legs severely. Finding it impossible to carry her forward by such means, a general clamour arose of, "kang-tegi," which signified "cut her throat." Anxious to shun so inhuman a spectacle, our author hurried on, but soon understood that the barbarians had changed the *nature* of their cruelty, and had left this hapless child of sorrow either to perish with want, or to die by the fangs of some tremendous monster.

On the 28th of April the travellers reached the town of Manna, where the inhabitants were busied in gathering the fruit of the nitta trees, which abound in the neighbourhood, producing long, narrow pods, which contain some black seeds beneath a coat of yellow mealy powder, which, if eaten by itself, is rather clammy, but when mingled with water or milk it becomes a wholesome and grateful article of food.

Petty chiefs, who are independent of each other, are the rulers of the Jallonkas.

The chief of Manna, with a numerous retinue, accompanied the caravan over a curious bridge which crosses the Basing, a considerable branch of the Senegal, which has but a little current, and is very deep and smooth. This bridge is constructed of several tall trees, the ends of which are united, and allowed to float in the middle of the stream, while their roots rest upon the opposite rocks, and the trees, thus placed, are covered over with a quantity of dry bamboo.

The swell of the river at the rainy seasons annually destroys this convenience. It is however patiently replaced by the inhabitants, who justly expect a small gratuity from every person who passes over it.

On the 3d of May, the cofle rested at a village in the vicinity of Malacotta, where the schoolmaster of Kamalia met with his elder brother. This interview, our readers may naturally suppose, after nine years absence, was truly affecting to the spectators.

In the evening they entered Malacotta, which is an

unwalled town, consisting of huts formed with split cane, in the manner of wicker work, and plaistered with mud. A manufactory is established here for excellent iron, and very good soap is made, by first boiling ground nuts in water, and then adding a layer of ashes and wood.

Intelligence was brought by some of the townsmen respecting a war between Almami Abdulkader, sovereign of Foota Torra, and Damel, king of the Jaloffs.

An ambassador from the former procured an audience at the court of Damel, before whom he laid two knives, addressing him thus:—"With this knife," saith Abdulkader, "I will deign to shave the head of Damel, provided he will embrace the faith of Mahomet; and with this other will I cut his throat, if he refuses to gratify my desire: let Damel take his choice."

The monarch of the Jaloffs coolly replied "that he neither chose one nor the other;" in consequence of which a war ensued: the boasting prince was taken prisoner, and led to the presence of the magnanimous Damel, who mildly said, "Abdulkader, resolve me this question; If the chance of war had reversed our situations, how would you have treated me?" "I would have pierced you to the heart with my spear," exclaimed Abdulkader, "and I am prepared for the same fate, which I know awaits me."

"You are mistaken," rejoined the victorious king; "my weapon is stained, indeed, with the blood of your subjects, and I might deepen its sanguine hue by the method which you have named, but this would neither rebuild my town nor reanimate the hapless thousands which lie slaughtered in the woods; I shall therefore withhold my hand from killing you in cool blood, but shall detain you as my slave, till I perceive you may reside in your own territories without destroying the peace of your neighbours; and

when that is the case, I shall reflect on the most prudent method of establishing you."

Abdulkader was accordingly confined three months, working as a slave, and receiving the bread of bondage; at the expiration of which, his glorious conqueror, with a generosity seldom paralleled in more polished nations, freely restored him to the throne of his ancestors.

After a stay of four days at Malacotta, the travellers crossed a branch of the Senegal, called the Honey River; from whence they proceeded to the town of Bentygala, and two days afterwards arrived at Dindikoo.

On the 12th they passed over the Falemé river, and were kindly entertained at Medina by a Mandingo merchant, who was the sole proprietor of the village, and who, from a partiality to European customs, had his meals prepared in pewter dishes, and his houses built after an English model.

The following day they came to Baniseribe, which was the residence of a Slatee, who travelled with the caravan.

Our author, on a strong invitation, attended this person to his house, at which he was received with the embrace of friendship and the acclamations of delight, while his relations alternately sang and danced around him. When he had taken his seat on a mat near the door, a young damsel, his destined spouse, produced a calabash of water, in which, kneeling before him, she requested him to wash his hands. The Slatee complied; and the maiden instantly drank the water, while the tear of affectionate joy trembled in her eye, thereby displaying the most unequivocal proof of her fidelity and tenderness.

From hence they proceeded to Kirwani, which is a large town, supplied with several furnaces for the purpose of smelting.

They next entered the Tenda Wilderness, and soon

after arrived at the town of Tambacunda, where a palaver was held on the following occasion: A Slatee, who entered the town with the coffle, found his wife, with whom he had formerly resided in this place, and who had borne him two children, married to another man, to whom also she had borne two children; as she imagined her first husband was dead, since he had remained eight years at Manding, without transmitting any intelligence to his spouse.

The Slatee now demanded his wife, and the second husband refused to relinquish her; wherefore, the cause was referred to a public trial, which accordingly took place, and terminated with this decision, that the woman should reside with the object of her own choice.

Mr. Park observes the lady appeared irresolute; but he suspected that "first love would eventually obtain the victory."

On the 4th of June they reached Medina, which is the capital of the Wooli dominions, and shortly after arrived at Jindey, in which the caravan stopped, and from whence our author, having taken an affectionate leave of the other travellers, proceeded with Karfa, and one of the Foulahs, till the evening, when they were received, at Tendacunda, by the black female, whose name we repeated in the first part of our narration, and who, from her intercourse with the trader there alluded to, was able to converse in the English tongue.

She appeared greatly astonished at our adventurer's return, who, she understood, had been murdered by the Moors.

Karfa, in the mean time, listened with the most profound attention to the first English conversation which he had ever heard, and regarded the furniture, bedding, and utensils, with silent admiration.

After a short stay of four days, our traveller was politely invited to the house of Mr. Ainsley, who

came to meet him at Tendacunda, and with whom Mr. Park and Karfa returned to Pisanía.

Karfa was here greatly surprised at the sight of Mr. Ainsley's schooner, which was lying near the place; he could scarcely be convinced, that so large a body could move before an ordinary wind, and was greatly at a loss to comprehend the nature of the sails and rigging. To the contemplation of this vessel, with her anchor and cable, the astonished African devoted an entire day.

In a couple of days, our adventurer was introduced to Dr. Laidley, who received him as one returned from the grave.

As the wearing apparel, left by Mr. Park at Pisanía, was carefully preserved, he now relinquished his venerable beard, and resumed the English dress, to the infinite delight of Karfa, who, however, deeply regretted the loss of his beard, by which, he affirmed, he was metamorphosed into a boy.

The kind attentions of this benevolent negro were now so amply rewarded by his grateful friend, that he confessed his journey had indeed been crowned with prosperity; yet, when contemplating the superiority of European arts and manners, he would frequently exclaim, with a deep sigh and dejected countenance, "Black men are nothing!" and at other times he would inquire what reason could possibly induce our author, who was not a merchant, to explore such a wretched country as Africa.

Having taken a fond farewell of this amiable negro, who returned to his own district, Mr. Park embarked, June 17th, in an American slave trader, called the Charlestown, under the command of Mr. Harris. In this vessel the unhappy negroes endured the severest hardships beneath the oppressive weight of irons and a close confinement; they were obliged to work at the pumps, as the ship proved leaky. On approaching Antigua, it struck on a rock,

and narrowly escaped a wreck; it was, however, with much difficulty brought into St. John's harbour, where our author continued about ten days, at the expiration of which he obtained a passage in the Chesterfield packet, which was bound from the Leeward Islands, and touched at Antigua, for the mail, in which he sailed on the 24th of November, and, on the 22d of the following month, he safely arrived at Falmouth, after an absence of two years and seven months from England; in which time he traversed a considerable portion of the African continent, that had never been explored by any European; and though he was unable to complete his original design, he performed such an essential service to his country, by what he *did* accomplish, as must infallibly crown him with the glorious wreath of British applause, and transmit his name with honour to succeeding generations.

END OF THE TWENTY-SECOND VOLUME.

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